

By MICHAEL KNIPE AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

CS

Whitehall warning over biological research by Arabs

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Foreign Office told leading British academics shortly before the Gulf emergency to report suspicious applications from Middle East students for postgraduate courses involving research into bacteria which could be used in biological weapons.

The warning in June by Peter Davies, director of the arms control and disarmament department of the Foreign Office, followed M16 intelligence that Iraq wants to develop its expertise in genetically manipulated diseases.

This coincided with growing fears that President Saddam is on the threshold of obtaining the technology to launch biological attacks and may already have cholera, typhoid and anthrax stocks.

The warning to heads of biological science departments, postgraduate medical schools and departments researching virology and genetics covered students

throughout the Middle East, though it did not specify Iraq, and North Africa.

Companies involved in allied research were also asked to scrutinise suspicious orders from abroad and report them to the trade and industry department.

A similar exercise, it is understood, has been mounted by West European governments, the United States, Canada and Australia after the pooling of intelligence.

Intelligence agencies have evidence that Iraq is conducting research on biological agents at heavily guarded sites at Salman Pak and Samarra near Baghdad. It is believed that cholera bacteria may actually be in production, as may typhoid and anthrax.

Research on botulism, tularemia and equine encephalitis is also feared to have been started.

The scare about Iraq's biological warfare capacity is compounded by American uncertainty about the efficacy of its chemical protection suits in defending servicemen against attack. The British NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) suits are said to provide better protection. American warships, moreover, are not equipped with "overpressure" - positive air pressure on board which would force contamination out if a ship were punctured by a biological rocket or bomb.

Mr Davies confirmed that he had sent a letter calling for close scrutiny of student applications and unusual requests to companies, and added: "This was a consciousness-raising paper to underline the potential problems."

The letter, accompanied by

a five-page document, said: "It is believed about 10 countries either have or are considering acquiring a biological weapon capacity. The Middle East and North Africa are of particular concern, but the risk of proliferation is widespread."

Among scientists who received copies of the letter were Dr Alastair Hay, a chemical pathologist from Leeds University, who is chairman of an academic working party on chemical and biological warfare sponsored by the United Nations Association and its secretary, Elizabeth Sigmund.

Ms Sigmund said: "I was dumbstruck. We did not realise this was something the Foreign Office would take so seriously. It must have been on the basis of good intelligence reports. The use of bacteria for terrorist purposes is as much a concern as open warfare."

Dr Hay said: "I think servicemen would not be able to survive a sustained attack wearing their protective clothing all the time. Saddam Hussein has already crossed the threshold in using chemical weapons against Iran and the Kurds. I don't think he has any qualms about similar attacks."

"What is most at the centre of concern are areas that might have potential use for biological weapons, like genetic engineering and fermentation procedures where you would want to culture large numbers of organisms."

Two eminent department heads at Exeter University, which already has 19 Iraqi postgraduates funded by Baghdad, received copies.



Keeping the peace: United States air force personnel unloading a military vehicle from a C-141 Galaxy aircraft at Dhahran airport, south of the Saudi-Kuwait border

WHAT NEXT?

Conflicting words by West highlight confusion over likelihood of war

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DOUGLAS Hurd, the foreign secretary, has used every chance in the past few days to play down fears that conflict is inevitable and imminent.

Israeli defence experts do not agree. They have advised Jerusalem to expect an armed clash between the US and Iraq by the weekend. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French defence minister, has also said he fears a US attack against Iraq "in a few days".

The disparity between these statements mirrors the prevailing confusion. The relative clarity of the first three weeks after the invasion of Kuwait has given way to the question: "What next?"

Iraq is now less likely to make the first military move, at least on its southern front. Both in military and diplomatic terms, the containment of Baghdad has probably succeeded. This begs a question: should the West be satisfied with containment? Should it wait for Iraq to crumble under economic sanctions, or use the hostages as a pretext for action?

Is it enough to force Iraq to retreat, or should the West try to ensure that President Saddam does not rise again? If a slow economic and diplomatic approach is preferred, will Western public opinion accept the price: the loss of the "peace dividend" from the end of the cold war?

Mr Bush, Margaret Thatcher and President Mubarak showed strong leadership in mobilising international support against Iraq; they have yet to address these questions adequately.

The words and actions of the White House have been

open to conflicting interpretations. President Bush seemed at first to be following Theodore Roosevelt's advice to "speak softly and carry a big stick"; in recent days he has spoken forcefully while his diplomacy has become more convoluted.

The stock markets appeared to take his decision to call up reservists as preparation for war. It could equally well be preparation for a prolonged stand-off. The reservists will probably be used to guard American military facilities left behind by men and machines now in Saudi Arabia.

A clue to Mr Bush's intentions emerged at a press conference on Wednesday. He said he "might be prepared" to give the UN Security Council a little longer to pass a resolution authorising the use of minimum force to implement trade sanctions.

This implied that US warships have not yet been told to fire at vessels trying to break sanctions, something that the US Navy's cautious handling of two Iraqi tankers earlier in the week had already suggested.

It seems certain that Mr Bush is holding the navy back, hoping that American, British and French diplomats at the UN will persuade their Soviet counterparts to accept a resolution under article 42 of the UN Charter. Their willingness to wait shows the high value the three countries put on achieving an appearance of international solidarity. A Soviet vote for force would be a blow to President Saddam, whether the Soviet warships fired any shots or not.

The effect of a resolution would be diplomatic rather than military. The US, Britain and France have said they are prepared to use force even without a resolution, on the ground that article 51 provides the right of collective defence. The chances of passing a resolution depend almost entirely on Moscow. Only the five permanent members - the US, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain - have veto power. China has made clear it would not vote against if the others were in favour.

Moscow has insisted that, if the UN is to endorse force, it must be applied through its largely defunct military committee, which consists of the defence chiefs of staff of the permanent members. It would want a force under UN command, not merely nations acting individually under the authority of a resolution.

Mr Hurd probably fears that public anger over the hostages might build up so quickly that the government would be forced to take reprisals. This would rule out a solution based on sanctions backed by force, and might lead to a wider conflict, drawing in Israel and its neighbours.

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MOSCOW

Kremlin denies weakening of resolve

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet foreign ministry yesterday issued a new account of the talks between Soviet officials and the Iraqi special envoy, Sadoun Hammadi, who left Moscow on Wednesday after two days of talks.

The latest version emphasises the toughness of the talks and the differences between the two sides.

It was clearly intended to refute suggestions that Soviet resolve had weakened as a result of Iraqi appeals to old friendship.

Speaking at what has now become a daily briefing, Yuri Gromykh, the deputy foreign ministry spokesman, said Moscow had told Mr Hammadi that there was no question of the Soviet Union breaking sanctions which it had voted for in the United Nations Security Council. When the Iraqi envoy asked for Soviet condemnation of American military deployment in Saudi Arabia, he was reportedly told that these were a direct response to Iraqi action in invading Kuwait. If Baghdad wanted the troops withdrawn, then it had to "remove the circumstances which gave rise to their presence" - namely withdrawal from Kuwait.

Mr Gromykh implied that the new version of the talks was intended to "set the record straight". The earlier account said that Eduard Shevardnadze, the foreign minister, had found "elements which deserve serious consideration" in Iraq's proposals for a comprehensive regional settlement and that these merited further study. He indicated that the foreign ministry felt the importance of Mr Shevardnadze's remarks had been exaggerated.

A subsequent Tass clarification of an earlier report said that Mr Shevardnadze's remarks "provide no basis for concluding that the Soviet Union has retreated from its position".

To support the impression of Soviet toughness, Mr Gromykh quoted from remarks by President Bush praising Soviet resolve.

Mr Gromykh declined to comment on an article by the diplomatic correspondent of *Izvestia*, Mikhail Yudin, which claimed that Iraq had offered Moscow lucrative contracts in future if it broke the UN trade embargo and had obligingly threatened the thousands of Soviet citizens still in Iraq. He conceded, however, that it was "well researched".

The fourth and last group of Soviet evacuees from Kuwait was due to arrive in Moscow last night, having been allowed to fly direct from Baghdad.

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Navy shopping lists keep profits afloat back home

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IN THE American naval town of Norfolk, Virginia, the tradesmen are moaning. Business has plummeted. Most of the warships in the giant naval base have departed for the Middle East, taking with them thousands of sailors and all their dollars. Sympathy for the tradesmen, however, is tempered by the fact that they have just enjoyed an almighty bonanza.

Consider, for example, the grocery list of the aircraft-carrier group led by the John F. Kennedy which left late last week. It took with it two million fresh eggs, 185,000lb of hot dogs, 400,000lb of hamburgers, 300,000lb of chips and 250,000lb of chicken, all ordered through the local naval supply centre.

About 22,000 tons of food were loaded aboard the eight ships, not to mention 3.5 million gallons of diesel fuel, two million gallons of jet fuel

and \$1 million (£625,000) worth of hardware including 16,000 identity tags.

The Pentagon claims the military deployment over the past three weeks is the biggest in history over such a short time, and President Bush compared it on Wednesday to moving "a medium-sized American city, completely capable of sustaining itself, to the Middle East".

In all, 500 tons of fruit and vegetables, 145,000 gallons of bottled water and two million pounds of hamburger meat have been shipped out to the American forces, plus all the weapons, clothing and spare parts that have gone by sea or via the "aluminium bridge" formed by a non-stop flow of aircraft to Saudi Arabia.

Also dispatched have been 150,000 bottles of sunscreen, 70,000 pairs of sun-glasses, 6,000 boxes of lip-balm and 230,000 containers of foot-

powder. Though Saudi water supplies are good, they cannot cope with the demands of tens of thousands of American servicemen, each of whom requires roughly 20 gallons a day for drinking, cooking, washing and other uses. A range of water purification plants are en route to the Middle East.

To help move this lot, the Pentagon has commandeered 38 aircraft from commercial airlines and eight private cargo ships, and has activated 38 ageing cargo ships.

From across the country tales of private enterprise and initiative filter in. A Florida manufacturer of sun-tan cream is offering to make the Pentagon a special unscented formula: "I'd hate to see 5,000 of our guys advancing across the desert toward the enemy smelling like coconuts."

Jean Kirkpatrick, page 10

UNITED NATIONS

UN poised to authorise 'minimum force' in Gulf

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE UN Security Council appeared yesterday to be on the verge of meeting to discuss - and possibly vote on - a draft resolution giving UN authority to a naval blockade of Iraq.

The five permanent members of the council - Britain, China, France, the Soviet Union and the United States - were said to have agreed on a draft endorsing the use of "such minimum force as may be necessary".

"We are making progress," said Thomas Pickering, the US permanent representative, as he went in to a meeting of the five powers yesterday morning. He said that the previous day "we agreed among the five on a text that we will refer to our capitals for their comments and remarks, and I think that's good progress."

In addition, we have the question of timing. As you

know, the United States would like to have this move immediately and we have hopes that it will move quickly.

The morning meeting adjourned unusually quickly, after just 45 minutes. As they emerged, diplomats said they had to consult their capitals before meeting again in the afternoon. Mr Pickering said he was "very happy" with the meeting.

On Wednesday the security council agreed to help Jordan overcome the economic repercussions of complying with the UN embargo on Iraq, with aid that could run into billions of dollars. Sir Crispin Tickell, Britain's permanent representative at the UN, said that the council had agreed to put together an aid package for Jordan.

Article 50 of the UN Charter allows countries faced with special economic problems in

applying mandatory sanctions to seek help from the security council. Diplomats said Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Yemen are expected to do so. Jordan, which is under pressure to allow Iraq to ship goods overland to its port of Aqaba, is considered a special case. "Jordan is right up against the frontier and virtually a landlocked country and was very much on everyone's mind," Sir Crispin said.

The apparent progress at yesterday morning's meeting to discuss the naval blockade follows the intervention of the US Secretary of State, James Baker, on Wednesday. He called his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, to impress on him the importance of the United States attached to the enforcement resolution. Moscow had been pushing for a greater UN role and a slower timetable for action than Washington wanted.

Moscow pauses in defying Iraq as domestic critics voice doubts

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW



Gorbachev: strategy under fire from the military

WHEN Iraq invaded Kuwait the Soviet Union's position was unusually straightforward. For once aggression was called "aggression" and invasion "invasion". Moscow voted with the other four permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - America, Britain, France and China - for condemnation and sanctions, and President Gorbachev accused Iraq of "perfidy".

During the past week, however, some of that clarity has been lost, with Moscow seeming to hesitate over using even minimal force to enforce sanctions. Divining Soviet policy from information available in Moscow has offered little more certainty than reading runes. But from the combination of official statements, half-statements and silences, it is possible to construct a rough, if largely hypothetical, picture.

Soviet commentators have suggested that Sadoun Hammadi, Iraq's special envoy and deputy

prime minister, might have swayed Soviet leaders into modifying their position. Rune reading indicates that this is not so; rather, the Kremlin has two priorities which are not easily combined. It needs to maintain its promising friendship with the United States and the West, because this is the foundation of its new foreign policy. On the other hand, it must keep domestic opinion on its side.

Moscow's stated foreign political position, including its condemnation of Iraq, full support for sanctions and calls for the release of Western citizens, meets the first requirement. As the foreign ministry has insisted, however, economic sanctions, whether or not backed by force, will be costly for the Soviet Union. Moscow has not only stopped selling arms to Iraq, it has halted other trade as well.

Moscow might just be able to make up the economic shortfall through the Western goodwill it wins and possible UN compensation. When it comes to taking part in military action of any sort,

however, the Soviet Union faces very great problems, most of them on the domestic front.

The Soviet leadership already faces criticism for being too keen to please America and for "coding positions" to the West. It was clear from the defensiveness of Mr Gorbachev's speech to the military last weekend that criticism of foreign policy weakness in the wake of the loss of Eastern Europe has not been silenced.

Moscow has been careful not to criticise the airlift of US troops to Saudi Arabia. Public opinion is less reticent. It is also frightened. Were Moscow to take part in a naval blockade under US command, the level of criticism could become dangerous. Hence Soviet insistence that it will consider military action only under the command of the UN.

Even then there is no certainty that Mr Gorbachev and Eduard Shevardnadze, his foreign minister, could take domestic opinion or even the top military leadership with them. After Afghanistan, the Soviet public is hostile to all involvement

in foreign wars. Morale in the military is low. The last time reservists were called up, to help quell unrest in Azerbaijan, widespread protests led to mobilisation being stopped.

Military leaders not only appear concerned about the use of any military force at all, but about the wisdom of breaking with Iraq in the first place.

Aside from public and military misgivings about the use of force, the other domestic difficulty faced by the Soviet leadership arises from the presence of so many Soviet citizens in the Gulf. Soviet leaders are aware that they are both potential hostages and potential refugees.

The refugee issue may explain why Moscow has made the safe and civilised evacuation of its citizens from Kuwait its first public priority. The leadership cannot afford to risk accusations that it is unable to guarantee the security of its citizens.

But the presence of so many Soviet citizens in Iraq also strengthens Baghdad's bargaining position

with Moscow. Ultra-careful statements by the Soviet foreign ministry on three points suggest that Iraq may have set conditions for the safe departure of those with Soviet passports.

First, the Soviet Union may have been required to keep the two warships it sent to the region south of the Strait of Hormuz. The foreign and defence ministries have been adamant that the ships are "at anchor" there.

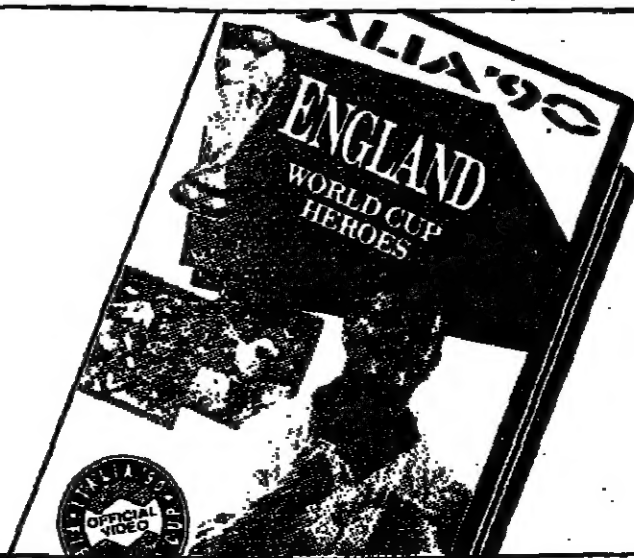
The second requirement would be that Moscow should not join an international naval blockade. The third would be that the 193 Soviet military specialists in Iraq should serve out their contracts.

Let their Western partners feel Moscow's nerve is failing. Soviet officials have begun to recycle their criticism of Iraq. Approving the use of force, their own or someone else's, however, requires nerves of a different quality to withstand the blasts at home. No wonder Mr Gorbachev has interrupted his holiday to return to Moscow.

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THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

Harder American hearts allow Bush a free hand on hostages

By ROBERT HUNTER

"AMERICA held hostage" These words greeted American television viewers each evening during the 444 days that American diplomats were held captive by Ayatollah Khomeini. Today, ten years and two presidents later, George Bush faces a challenge reminiscent of the one that brought down Jimmy Carter: American citizens in jeopardy in the Gulf. This time, however, America is not alone in having its citizens used as political pawns.

From November 4, 1979, until he left the presidency 14 months later, Mr Carter was bedevilled by his inability to gain freedom for his 52 countrymen held in Iran. From the outset, he and his advisers knew how difficult it would be to attempt a rescue in the heart of Iran's capital, 8,000 miles from America. It was only fear that the president to launch a desperate rescue mission in April 1980, and its failure in the Iranian desert bore out the earlier reservations.

Ronald Reagan, Mr Carter's successor, boasted that he would exact retribution for terrorist acts against Americans abroad. But as made vividly

clear in Lebanon, he had no better answers for gaining the release of Americans held hostage, whether by military or diplomatic means.

President Bush's difficulties are compounded by Iraq's declared intention to place Americans and other foreign nationals in harm's way, linking their fate to any military action taken against key installations. Mindful of his predicament, for a time Mr Bush tried to deny what was becoming increasingly obvious: that President Saddam Hussein is prepared to take maximum advantage of foreigners, especially Americans, who are within his grasp.

Mr Bush's tactic of denial was designed to delay, if not to forestall, the onset of another hostage crisis accompanied by demands from the American people for bold action. But as has happened before, the tactic failed because of the insatiable appetite of television, whose enterprise has included the broadcasting of interviews with American citizens trapped in hostile Baghdad.

In fact, however, Mr Bush may have more flexibility than his predecessors did, despite the daily depiction on American television screens of potential tragedy. The 1980s destroyed the myth

Robert Hunter is vice-president for regional programmes at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington. During the Iranian hostage crisis he was director of Middle East affairs at the National Security Council.

that Americans were somehow immune from the terrorism and personal vulnerability to which West Europeans and Middle Easterners had become accustomed. Promises to deal effectively with terrorism went unredempted. Americans gradually became inured to outrages and began responding deeply only to novelty, such as last year's grisly pictures of the hanging in Lebanon of US Marine Colonel William Higgins.

In October 1986, the American people also learned that their champion in the fight against terrorism, President Reagan, had been double-dealing. While proclaiming his unwillingness to negotiate with terrorists, he had been doing just that, including the covert sale of arms to Iran in exchange for vague promises of liberty for

Americans held captive in Lebanon. Disillusionment about the possibility of effective American action led to a wholesale change in national attitudes. In January 1987 the seizure of three American citizens in Beirut led to cries not of "send the marines", but of "why were those Americans there?"

This hardening of attitudes does not mean Americans' hearts have hardened at the plight of their countrymen. Mr Bush could still be swept along by two conflicting groundswells of opinion, demanding contradictory actions: to strike hard against Iraq, and to rule out military action. If American hostages are harmed, demand for punishment could become overwhelming.

Yet if Iraq does not commit that folly this time the president could find that the average American sees his captive countrymen not as symbols of American impotence but as individuals helplessly caught up in a potential war. Mr Bush could sustain the trust of the American people to allow him to act as he sees best.

Certainly, President Saddam has given new ammunition to Mr Bush's efforts to represent the Iraqi dictator as pitted against the rest of the

world. Mr Bush has emphasised the role of the United Nations, a multinational force in the Gulf, and the presence of Arab forces from Egypt, Morocco and even Syria.

It is critical to the American position that Americans were not singled out for President Saddam's "hospitality". This point must also be at the core of Western, indeed global, strategy. As he faces an unprecedented alliance of nations prepared to strangle his economy, the Iraqi dictator is trying to divide them. Iraq's selective release of hostages, by nationality, is a potent weapon in weakening resolve against its aggression.

No nation can ask its people to refuse if given the chance to go home. But every nation must also understand what else is involved: the lives of innocent civilians are being manipulated for tactical gain by the man who conducted the most massive use of poison gas since the first world war, against Iraqis and his own Kurdish population. Today's hostage crisis must remind the world of what else could be in store if it does not maintain a united front against President Saddam.

LONDON

Tornado squadron to raise British stake in build-up

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday raised its stake in the military build-up in the Gulf with the announcement that another squadron of Tornados is to be sent out within days.

The deployment of 12 Tornado GR1 strike aircraft, capable of mounting bombing raids on Iraqi divisions and air bases in the event of an attack on Saudi Arabia, is in line with the government's policy to resist British involvement at this stage to the RAF. It appears in no hurry to offer to station ground forces in Saudi Arabia, apart from the 120 soldiers from signals units who have been already sent out to control communications.

However, in his statement yesterday, following a meeting between the prime minister and key cabinet ministers at Downing Street, Tom King,

the defence secretary, said that "other forces" could be sent in due course. Since the latest fighter squadron is to be based at Bahrain, sources indicated that an infantry battalion of about 700 men will probably be sent to the Gulf state, both to protect the Tornados and as a morale boost to the government of Bahrain, which only has an army numbering 2,500 men.

Mr King is sending a team from the defence ministry today to work out what extra forces might be needed. He said he would make a decision on the appropriate unit to be sent, once the team had returned.

The squadron of Tornados, which may come from West Germany or from Britain, will be joining the 12 Tornado F3 air defence aircraft, based at Dhahran in

Saudi Arabia and the 12 Jaguars at Thumrait in Oman. It means that Britain will have committed 36 of the RAF's 570 combat aircraft to the Gulf - 24 Tornados out of a total of about 220 and 12 Jaguars out of a total of 87.

The RAF Regiment detachment of Rapier anti-aircraft missiles, which were originally intended for Saudi Arabia, are now expected to be moved to Bahrain. The missile detachment never went further than Cyprus, because it was made clear there was already sufficient air defence around the key Saudi bases.

The government's policy from the beginning has been to send military assets to the Gulf which could be seen to be fulfilling a strictly defensive role. The US has also stated repeatedly that the mission of its forces is to defend Saudi Arabia against attack. However, the deployment in Saudi Arabia of US marines, mechanised units and airborne forces, which will total about 60,000 men within two weeks, indicates a potential for seizing Kuwait by force.

Mr King made it clear at a press conference that the British government wanted the Iraqis out of Kuwait "by peaceful means". The only method the government wants to employ to remove the Iraqi troops is by an effective application of the United Nations trade embargo.

The deployment of Tornado GR1s, however, is significant, because of their capability to mount deep strikes day and night. Although the Jaguar is also a ground attack fighter, it has limited ability to fly at night and is not armed with such sophisticated weaponry as the Tornado. The GR1 is armed with 12233 bombs, designed for damaging runways. The Tornado GR1 also has terrain-following radar, enabling it to fly at low level at night.

Speaking about the rounding-up of Westerners by Iraqis, Mr King said: "We are determined to achieve our rights and the liberties of British subjects. We do not rule out any option."

Mr King confirmed the latest Western intelligence reports that the Iraqis had not, after all, moved Scud-B ballistic missiles into Kuwait.

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BAGHDAD

Saddam asks Egypt to join fight against Saudi 'corruption'

FROM REUTERS IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam yesterday called on President Mubarak of Egypt to join the Arab people against "non-believers and corrupt people" in Saudi Arabia.

In a 30-minute "open letter" to Mr Mubarak read on Iraqi television, he accused King Fahd of Saudi Arabia of conspiring against Iraq. He said he had a tape recording - "a gift from God" - made on July 9, proving the king's involvement in a conspiracy.

Egypt is one of three Arab countries to have sent troops to defend Saudi Arabia against Iraqi attack. In an emotional appeal on Tuesday, Mr Mubarak called on President Saddam to pull back in the Gulf confrontation and avert war. In his response, President Saddam said Mr Mubarak's "correct attitude is not to complement the (American) crime" of supporting King Fahd's government.

He said the Saudi king, along with other Gulf rulers, monopolised oil wealth that was the right of all Arabs.

He said the al-Sabah family of Kuwait, ousted by Iraq's invasion on August 2, had personal wealth of \$60 billion (\$32 billion) and King Fahd \$18 billion. Kuwait had invested \$220 billion abroad which should be used in the Arab world. President Saddam compared this vast wealth with the plight of poor Egyptians who, he said, could not enjoy the privileges of young Arabs from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait.

He also contrasted American aid to Egypt, at least \$2 billion a year, with the oil wealth that he said Cairo would receive if oil revenues were shared among all Arabs.

In previous "open letters" to President Bush, President Saddam branded the American leader a liar and compared him with Hitler. In his message to Mr Mubarak, he addressed the Egyptian leader as "excellency", apparently anxious not to alienate the Egyptian people with a personal attack or divert them from his pan-Arab appeal.

His message made no mention of foreigners trapped in Iraq or Kuwait, most of whom are Egyptians, or of new diplomatic initiatives to resolve the Gulf confrontation.

COPIENHAGEN: Sheikh Ali al-Khateib al-Sabah, Kuwait's ousted finance minister, predicted yesterday that war in the Gulf was almost inevitable. Describing President Saddam as a dictator and a

madman, he said the Iraqi leader had only minimal support in the Arab world (Christopher Follett writes).

Speaking after talks with Danish government leaders in Copenhagen yesterday, he said: "It may be a dream of this madman to turn this into a confrontation with Israel, but it is a confrontation with the whole world community."

Sheikh Ali added that he would prefer to see President Saddam overthrown by a domestic coup in Iraq, but feared that the Gulf confrontation would end in war. He said that Kuwait did not want war, but he saw a military confrontation as inevitable.

"If a major conflict is necessary to liberate our country, we are reluctantly willing to pay the price. I do not think it will be too long before Kuwait is free again, thanks to the massive international support we are getting," Sheikh Ali said.

He said the government in exile was organising resistance inside Kuwait, but not in residential areas.



Soldiers with the 82nd Airborne, wearing protective anti-chemical suits, spraying a military vehicle in Saudi Arabia with a solution that eliminates poisonous residue from chemical weapons that Iraq has threatened to use

YEMEN

Sanctions policy reopens divisions

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

YEMEN'S prevarication over its policy on sanctions against Iraq is the result of divisions of opinion between the southern and northern elements in the newly unified government, diplomatic observers say.

The formation of a single Yemen state from what were the Democratic Republic of Yemen (in the south) and the Yemen Arab Republic (in the north) occurred only three months ago and the current events in the Gulf are the first big test of its durability.

As the only Arab member of the United Nations Security Council, Yemen was faced with having to choose between its traditional ally, Iraq, and the international alliance supporting Saudi Arabia, with which it has for years had an uneasy relationship.

North Yemen nursed strong grievances at what it considered the low level of aid it received from Saudi Arabia and the demeaning treatment its nationals received while working in the Saudi kingdom. In contrast, Iraq earned its support by providing substantial military aid and

training. It was the only Arab state officially to send troops to fight alongside Iraq in its 1980-1988 war with Iran.

In spite of this sympathy, the Yemeni delegation at the UN is believed to be dominated by diplomats from the south who have a greater sense of the importance of its international obligations, said one Western diplomat.

There are also believed to be differences of view between the Yemeni president's office and the foreign ministry. President Saleh has expressed

his sympathy for Iraq while some of his foreign ministry officials have said that the Sanaa government will respect the UN embargo.

The president was formerly head of state of North Yemen, and Ali Salem al-Beid, the vice-president, is the leader of what was the ruling Socialist party in South Yemen. Haider Abu Bakr al-Atias, the prime minister, was previously the president of South Yemen.

"Everyone is taking it for granted that Yemen supports Iraq," Abdul-Karim al-Iryani, the foreign minister told *The Wall Street Journal*. But he said Yemen opposed both Iraq's occupation of Kuwait and the Western military build-up in the Gulf, indicating that the Sanaa government will continue to walk the diplomatic tightrope.

AMMAN: As King Hussein of Jordan flew to Yemen yesterday on the opening leg of his diplomatic mission to avert war in the Gulf, some 2,000 militant Jordanian women marching to his hillside palace in Amman to express support for his pro-Iraq stand (Christopher

Walker writes). Under a white banner declaring "No foreigners in the land of the prophets", the chanting women repeatedly shouted their willingness to lay down their lives for the Hashemite monarch. "We will sacrifice our souls and our blood for you," they cried.

In a sign of the growing tide of Muslim fundamentalism in Jordan, the women were organised by members of Islamic groups.

The demonstration was further proof of the support for the Iraqi cause in Jordan. Although the march was ostensibly in support of King Hussein, many of the demonstrators also carried posters of President Saddam.

The militancy of the women, some from Jordan's affluent upper class, others residents of a Palestinian refugee camp, reflected anger that many have been refused permission to sign up with the 80,000 volunteers in Jordan who have already offered to fight for Iraq. The women have been told they can only join in Jordan's civil defence training now being organised.

LEGAL POSITION

Diplomats face test of courage over order to disband

By MARC WELLER

BRITISH diplomats in occupied Kuwait will face a test of courage today. President Saddam has promised to close all foreign missions in the small Gulf state and few doubt that he will try to enforce his will.

The refusal of Britain and some other Western countries, including the United States, to close their embassies helps to make an important point. Contrary to the self-serving assertions of Iraq, the state of Kuwait continues to exist, and only the government of the exiled emir is entitled to act on its behalf.

This fact was affirmed in the United Nations Security Council resolution 662, adopted unanimously, which also calls upon all states to "refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as an indirect recognition of the annexation".

Only the legitimate government of the host state can demand the closure of a mission or withdraw diplomatic privileges from its personnel. It is impossible, therefore, to accept President Saddam's dictum and to transfer all operations to Baghdad without at the same time acknowledging that he is acting for Kuwait.

International law does not call on Michael Weston, the British ambassador, and his colleagues to shed blood in the defence of this principle. But the physical presence of the diplomats will provide a focus for the world's outrage directed against yet another breach of international law committed by Iraq.

It has to be remembered, however, that the British mission itself is not a little piece of England. It is part of Kuwaiti territory, although that country has temporarily suspended the exercise of its jurisdiction over the compound in favour of the United Kingdom. The mission remains inviolable even in times of armed conflict, in accordance with article 45 of the Vienna convention on diplomatic relations.

But if President Saddam's troops force their way in, they do not commit an act of aggression against Britain. Once more, there would be a violation of Kuwait's sovereignty rights, and Britain could also complain of a violation of its rights under the Vienna convention.

If British diplomats or citizens are removed from their places of residence in Kuwait and used as "human shields", this would add another dimension to the case. As Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, has pointed out, every Iraqi officer, from General Saddam down, would incur personal and individual responsibility for "grave breaches" of the Geneva laws of war.

After the inevitable collapse of the Iraqi government, their fate would not be a pleasant one. They could be brought to justice either by the new authorities of Baghdad, or affected states.

If British or other foreign subjects come to any harm during any storming of the embassy, then the response might be more immediate. So far, London has relied on a request from the Emir of Kuwait to assist his government in the enforcement of economic measures which are designed to vindicate his rights. At the insistence of Sir Crispin Tickell, the UN ambassador, Britain has for the moment refrained from using offensive military force in response to this request, although it would be entitled to do so. However, an attack on foreign nationals, or even diplomats, might entitle Western states to take the necessary measures in defence of their citizens.

Marc Weller is a researcher in international law at Queens College, Cambridge

JERUSALEM NOTEBOOK by Richard Owen

Media play a devious game amid rumours of war

Are the Israeli media playing a devious game over the Gulf crisis? The received view among Western defence experts seems to be that the United States will need another two to three weeks to build up its forces to the point where the US command could be sure of victory in a strike against Iraq. The Israeli press, on the other hand, has created the impression in the last few days that war is not only unavoidable but imminent.

At the beginning of the crisis, Israel deliberately kept a low profile in order not to give President Saddam Hussein an excuse to turn the conflict into an Arab-Israeli one. This remains official policy. But last week Israel radio began to suggest that Israel's army and "defence establishment" were "ready and preparing for any possibility", and that a war in the Gulf was "unavoidable". The newspaper *Davar* had a remarkably similar headline: "Senior Israeli officials say war is unavoidable."

Last weekend correspondents from three US newspapers were officially briefed that Israel believed the US would have to "act quickly" or risk the turmoil spreading through the Arab world, especially to an unstable Jordan.

The answer, the US papers were told, lay in a "single, massive air and missile strike against Iraq in the near future, a knock-out blow which would render Saddam Hussein incapable of offensive military action and perhaps break the morale of his army".

Then on Wednesday *Yediot Ahronot* and other papers made the dramatic announcement: war was not only inevitable, it was upon us. "There will be conflict within 24 to 48 hours," one security official was quoted as saying. Yesterday, not

All this panic...

helps keep my mind off...

Faye Dunaway.

surprisingly, the banner headlines read "panic".

Civil defence officials advised Israelis to stock up on food to last two weeks and to make sure their homes were equipped with fire extinguishers and first-aid kits. Windows were to be sealed airtight and criss-crossed with sticky tape in case of a blast. One shop said it had sold 1,000 gas masks in an hour, and baking soda - said to be an antidote to poison gas - is almost unobtainable.

Three explanations for the sudden war hysteria are circulating. One is that Israeli intelligence has indeed concluded that Israel is about to be attacked by a desperate and isolated President Saddam. The Israeli cabinet's defence committee met on Wednesday amid unusually tight security. Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister, then went on television to say Israel would not be provoked by Baghdad, but if attacked would respond with "full force". Israel could not "play with its fate", Mr Shamir said, and Iraq would pay "a very terrible price". Defence officials have said that Iraq has moved "a number" of missiles to a position west of Baghdad within range of Israel.

On the other hand, the government is still not issuing gas masks. Officials maintain Iraq cannot deliver chemical weapons by missile, and that any Iraqi aircraft would be blown out of the sky long before it reached Israel. Most Israelis, despite the headlines, are less apprehensive than they were when the crisis began, according to opinion polls.

A second and more subtle explanation for media behaviour is that Israel is alarmed by America's failure to act, and feels that time is on President Saddam's side. Talk of war and the need for action, the argument runs, could help push President Bush toward acting before it is too late. Some see in the hand of Ariel Sharon, the right-wing former general, who from the start has urged the US to "act rather than sit in the desert". Mr Sharon fears that American public opinion will eventually turn against Mr Bush.

But a third explanation, and the one favoured by conspiracy theorists, is that Israeli officials are playing their part in a co-ordinated anti-Iraq "black propaganda" exercise designed to undermine President Saddam and keep him guessing. As he moves from bunker to bunker, the theory runs, the Iraqi dictator cannot know if the

US and its allies are about to reduce Baghdad to ruins at any moment, or whether he has another "two to three weeks".

Amid the talk of imminent war, the American actress Faye Dunaway has arrived here to make a film called *Three Weeks in Jerusalem*. This does not refer to the past three weeks of Middle East crisis.

The title is a reference to the time it takes the character played by Miss Dunaway, a New York-based foreign correspondent, to realise that her pro-Palestinian prejudices have blinded her to the fact that Israel also has arguments on its side, not least the fact that its existence is at stake. The aim of the film, according to Amos Kollek, the producer, is not "propaganda" but to make the world see that both Arabs and Jews have "just causes".

The idea that a New York reporter could be pro-Arab, however, would evidently surprise King Hussein of Jordan, who this week accused the US and international press of being anti-Saddam because it was "Zionist-controlled". Asked to react, Mr Shamir gave a resigned shrug and murmured: "I only wish it were true."

THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: BRITISH PERSPECTIVE

'War risks' force airlines to pay out £375,000 a week

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE world's airlines are being surcharged up to \$100 (£62.50) per passenger as a special "war risk" premium on their insurance cover for flying to or from the Middle East.

The charges, costing an average-sized airline around \$600,000 (£375,000) a week, are causing mounting concern among international carriers, many of whom are already operating at minimal profit levels.

A meeting is to be held in Geneva at the end of next week to discuss the implications of the surcharges which, together with spiralling fuel costs, are certain to lead to big, across-the-board increases in the cost of airline tickets.

Aviation insurance cover is provided almost entirely through Lloyd's of London, the insurance market, and brokers who are having to cover airlines such as Saudia, Gulf Air, Egyptair, Royal Jordanian, as well as European scheduled and charter operators, are having to

spread the load of what they calculate could be a potential multi-billion-dollar claim if aircraft are damaged in a war.

They have developed a zone system which gradually spreads out from the flash-points of Iraq and Kuwait. The trade embargo means that no business can be conducted with either of the two states at all. War risk surcharges in neighbouring Saudi Arabia are reaching \$100 a passenger with gradual reductions through Bahrain, Dubai and other Gulf states, where surcharges are now about \$50 per passenger.

The rates are set once a week, vary from airline to airline, and are negotiated in strict commercial secrecy. Brokers reserve the right to make changes within 48 hours if the likelihood of hostilities breaking out is thought to have increased and have developed a news and intelligence-gathering operation to rival the Foreign Office.

Insurance rates, say brokers, have been too low for some

months and they now need to build up a fund of cash to cover any potential liability should an aircraft and its passengers be attacked.

British Airways is facing an enormous increase in its premiums because it has 45 flights into the Gulf region each week and a similar number passing through on the way back to London. All its services are still operating, including two a week to Riyadh, five to Doha, nine to Dubai and seven to Abu Dhabi. They also have a Boeing 747 sitting on the tarmac at Kuwait airport and crew held hostage, probably in Iraq. All of these could eventually claim against the insurance company, and if the aircraft is damaged or destroyed the insurers could have to find about \$50 million to compensate.

British Airways is not alone in having aircraft stuck in Kuwait. Around 20, including 15 from Kuwait Airlines, are still on the tarmac.



War painter John Keane, who is being flown to the Gulf as the Imperial War Museum's official artist. Keane, who has a studio in Hackney, specialises in painting conflict. He has covered Northern Ireland and Nicaragua.

Keane gets contract to paint conflict

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Imperial War Museum has commissioned the painter John Keane as Britain's official war artist in the Gulf. He is to be flown to Saudi Arabia "as soon as we can work out the mechanics", said a ministry of defence spokesman.

"It is an exciting prospect," said Mr Keane in his Hackney studio yesterday. "I didn't ask to go. There was simply a message on my telephone answering machine asking if I would be interested, and with some trepidation I rang back and said 'yes'."

Mr Keane, aged 35, has been awarded a £10,000 commission which will result in an exhibition at the museum and include the right for the museum to claim one canvas for its collection. He has made conflict a special interest. In 1987 he went to Nicaragua to see the struggle between the then Sandinista government and Contra rebels, and last year to Northern Ireland.

"Northern Ireland was extremely successful with very strong scenes," said Angela Flowers of the Flowers East Gallery in Hackney, Mr Keane's dealers for the last eight years. The Imperial War Museum bought one of the Northern Ireland paintings for its collection.

"He is a combination of a good painter and someone with a political commitment, but who is anxious to see a situation from both sides," said Mrs Flowers. Mr Keane's left-wing persuasion was manifested last year in an exhibition at Flowers East collectively called *Thatcher Years* which gently satirised the ten-year-old Conservative government. The prices of his work range from £1,200 to £15,000.

"He does not set out to make political points in his painting," said Mrs Flowers. "He is an extremely good contemporary painter, and if he hadn't been asked to go to Saudi Arabia he would be itching to be there. He is sensitive, perhaps nervous, but very brave."

Mr Keane, a graduate of Camberwell School of Art and the son of a stockbroker, said he expects the assignment to last a month. "I shall operate like a war correspondent, taking photographs and notes, and then making the canvases later. I am interested in conflict, but I have never seen a shot fired in anger and hope I never will."

The defence ministry said there was always an official artist assigned to major conflicts in which British forces were committed.

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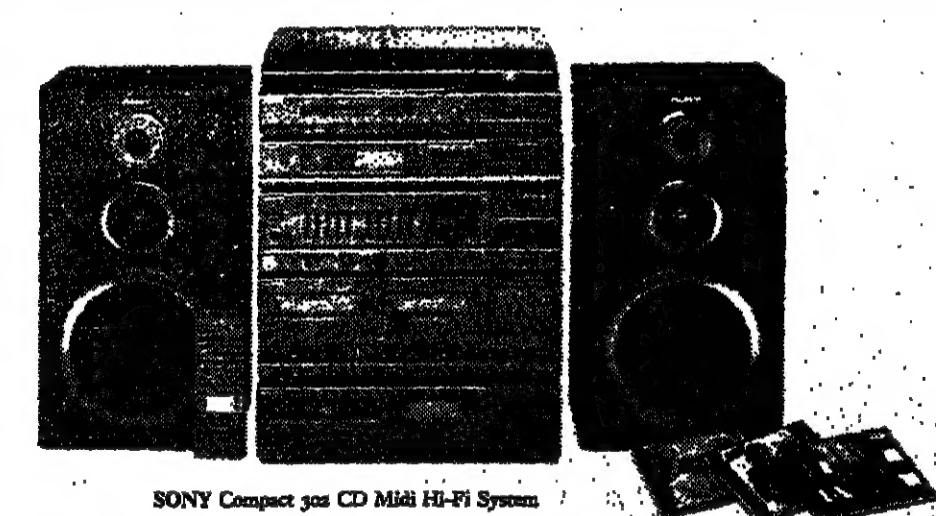
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Family at service for Croskery

THE wife and children of Douglas Croskery, the printing company manager shot dead by an Iraqi soldier as he tried to flee Kuwait 13 days ago, attended a memorial service in St John's Methodist church at Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, his home town, yesterday.

In his address, the Rev Norman Taylor said: "No words can express the shock and horror of what has happened to you and the agony that you have been through in these last days. We pay tribute to you all for the way that you have borne your grief."

Thelma Croskery, aged 45, and her children, David, Jacqueline and Leslie, asked for a memorial service since they cannot hold a funeral because Mr Croskery's body has not been returned by Iraq.

Mr Taylor said: "The family wanted a memorial service so they could pay their respects to Dougie and mourn him among friends and relatives."

Terry Palmer, Mrs Croskery's brother-in-law, told the nearly 200 mourners that the family planned its own personal tribute to the dead man.

He is a combination of a good painter and someone with a political commitment, but who is anxious to see a situation from both sides," said Mrs Flowers. Mr Keane's left-wing persuasion was manifested last year in an exhibition at Flowers East collectively called *Thatcher Years* which gently satirised the ten-year-old Conservative government. The prices of his work range from £1,200 to £15,000.

"He does not set out to make political points in his painting," said Mrs Flowers. "He is an extremely good contemporary painter, and if he hadn't been asked to go to Saudi Arabia he would be itching to be there. He is sensitive, perhaps nervous, but very brave."

Mr Keane, a graduate of Camberwell School of Art and the son of a stockbroker, said he expects the assignment to last a month. "I shall operate like a war correspondent, taking photographs and notes, and then making the canvases later. I am interested in conflict, but I have never seen a shot fired in anger and hope I never will."

The defence ministry said there was always an official artist assigned to major conflicts in which British forces were committed.

Stranded British workers sit tight in Middle East

By RAY CLANCY

BRITISH nurses and doctors in Iraq were working normally yesterday despite the turmoil surrounding them, but conditions for other workers, including engineers and teachers, remained uncertain.

At least 150 teachers, 200 engineers, 35 chartered surveyors and 350 bankers and accountants and their families are among the thousands of Britons trapped in the Gulf.

There are also architects, technicians, painters and builders.

Several British nurses were understood to be working in the nursing department at Kuwait University along with a handful of midwives taking care of the expatriate British community when the country was invaded by the Iraqis.

Another 57 British nurses are at the Ibn al Bitar hospital in central Baghdad, the former workplace of Daphne Parish, the nurse who was freed last month after being sentenced to 15 years' jail for allegedly spying with Farzad Bazoft, the *Observer* journalist.

The nurses have been able to telephone anxious relatives and are living and working normally although, like other foreigners in Iraq, they are unable to leave the country. The 600 staff at the hospital live in flats and are free to come and go within the city.

They have decided to organise activities that prevent them thinking too much about the potential dangers they face.

"The situation is very tense and it would be foolish to suggest that everything in the garden is rosy. The only restriction is not being allowed to leave the country and everyone is trying to work and live as normally as possible," said a spokesman for Parc Hospital Management, the Dublin-based company which runs the hospital.

The hospital was not being converted to military use, said the spokesman. "Even during the war with Iran there was never any question of the

hospital being used for military purposes and there is no evidence of this now," he said.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is aware of at least 35 surveyors caught in the area. All were working on construction projects, including some for the Kuwaiti government. Some have lived there for a decade while others were in Kuwait on short-term contracts.

Many British teachers avoided being trapped because the school holidays began a few days before Iraqi forces invaded but a young woman teacher is known to be detained. Most teachers worked for private English schools in Kuwait but an unknown number also taught English as a foreign language.

In Saudi Arabia, where the multinational military force is assembling to prevent an Iraqi invasion, there are hundreds of British teachers and nurses but there is no evidence that they are leaving en masse.

"Nurses in Saudi are obviously considering their positions very carefully and a few have decided to return home but on the other hand others have left in the last few days to take up new contracts," said a spokeswoman for the Royal College of Nursing's international division.

About a dozen British law firms continue to work in countries like Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Oman and some have reported an increased workload, mainly the result of anxiety about the effect of the embargo on contracts and insurance.

Only J.S.I. Gouldens has an associate office in Kuwait, which is staffed by Kuwaitis. "Obviously we are very worried about the welfare of our associates. We have been trying to make contact with them several times a day since the invasion but have had no success," said a spokeswoman for the firm in London.

Tim Congdon, page 10

Market survey's grumbles belie high level of contentment

By LIN JENKINS

NINE out of ten Britons are happy with their lot in spite of a list of grumbles that include education, violence, pollution, and the environment.

The survey 1990s Britain, conducted by Signal International, the market research group, was based on interviews with 13,000 people. It unveiled a series of contradictions which suggest that market research is an inexact science on which to plan future marketing.

The level of contentment among the population as a whole was found to be higher than seven years ago. In 1973 the same question was asked, before the collapse of the housing boom and the three-day week. Now 87 per cent of the

population are either fairly or very satisfied with their lives overall. Only one in five people, however, thinks that life is getting better with two out of three believing that it is getting worse.

Food safety caused concern, with 58 per cent not trusting the government to tell them the truth and 55 per cent expressing the view that farmers do not have the public's interest at heart, but 75 per cent were not prepared to pay more than 10 per cent more for organic or free range produce.

Frank Fletcher, research director, said: "It appears to be a particularly British thing that they say one thing on one side and then appear to contradict themselves. It probably shows that people have a greater degree of public respon-

sibility and are worried and aware of problems, such as food safety, transport and other major issues, but are content with their own lot.

"It is almost as if they feel these things do not affect them personally."

Some 65 per cent of those questioned believed that Britain is falling behind other European countries in making the country a better place to live, although the level of contentment here was often higher than that found in other countries.

In Britain 33 per cent are very satisfied with life compared with Denmark 63 per cent, Belgium 35 per cent, the Republic of Ireland 41 per cent and The Netherlands 48 per cent. Those which were lower were Portugal 8 per cent; Italy

17 per cent; France 16 per cent; Greece 19 per cent; Spain, 26 per cent; and West Germany, 29 per cent.

Assessing the figure on political divisions, 45 per cent of Conservatives were very satisfied, Green party supporters 37 per cent, Liberal Democrats 34 per cent, and Labour 25 per cent.

Top among the concerns voiced was violence, with 90 per cent thinking society was becoming increasingly violent. The effect of pollution on health worried 65 per cent, and on children's health 85 per cent; 55 per cent believed our education system was not among the best and 57 per cent believed housing, roads and development were ruining the environment. Demographic changes are of particular interest to industries plan-

ning policy for the rest of the 1990s. Alan Charlesworth, chief executive of the market research group, said that the over 45s, with their high disposable incomes, would be increasingly found to be the most important market.

"It has implications for many things and in particular the leisure industry. There is a move towards more leisure time being spent outside the home and people doing more adventurous things."

"Industry directed towards the youth culture is going to suffer. Things have been clouded by this half recession, but when we come out of it people are going to have to be ready to target those with the money to spend," he said.

Money from inheritance was still not playing as important a role as many

people had predicted. The £15 billion total inheritance last year was equivalent to £16,000 in each will. Once tax had been paid and the money divided between relatives, amounts received were small. Most people would put the money into a building society or used it to pay for a holiday or home repairs. One said that he would buy a rain forest and another that he would spend it on getting a gardener.

Most people said they preferred wine to drink and rated lager higher than beer.

The figures were based on expressed preference rather than the volume or value of what was sold.

1990s Britain (Signal International, 115 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AE; £750)

One in three academics funded from outside

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a third of university academics are financed from outside sources, according to a survey received by vice-chancellors yesterday.

The number has doubled in a decade, allowing universities to increase staffing in spite of having to cut posts.

The report on recruitment and retention of university staff was commissioned by the vice-chancellors and the Association of University Teachers (AUT). It shows 6,000 more academics and academic-related staff than there were in 1979 but that 3,500 fewer are funded by the universities.

Those funded from other sources tended to be younger

than the average in universities. The Institute of Manpower Studies at Sussex University, which conducted the survey, found that 83 per cent of them were under 35 while almost half of the university-funded academics were aged over 45.

Average salaries for those funded by universities alone rose more slowly than other non-manual pay. Although those on the lowest salaries maintained or even increased their place in the pay league, professors and others on higher salaries fell well behind comparable groups. In spite of this, the survey found staff turnover remaining low over the past five years. There are 10 per cent fewer posts in physics and chemistry, but there has been a 41 per cent rise in computing.

Responses from 3,000 staff showed general satisfaction with the nature of academic work but concern over pay, career opportunities and the way in which universities are run. Those funded from outside sources, who are often on short-term contracts, were particularly dissatisfied with their status and prospects.

Recruitment was easiest in arts subjects and most difficult in engineering and technology, where vacancies took an average of eight months to fill.

John Akker, deputy general secretary of the AUT, said the survey showed that without urgent government action to improve academic pay, a looming shortage of university staff would dwarf current teacher shortages.

Universities have asked their funding council for 19 per cent more places in the next four years. The Times Higher Education Supplement reports today. The highest bids were for engineering and science subjects, where the numbers requested were 22 per cent higher than the present total.

A senior civil servant is to be the first chief executive of the Open Polytechnic, a venture by 20 polytechnics and colleges of higher education to produce teaching and learning materials. David Hardy, head of the education department's division for continuing education, will take up his post in October.

Training Agency to be closed

By OUR HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE Training Agency, established only two years ago as a successor to the Manpower Services Commission, is to be abolished and its function taken over by a new division of the employment department responsible for education, enterprise and training.

Sir Geoffrey Holland, permanent secretary at the department, has told staff that the decision reflected the government's intention that training and enterprise councils should lead the development of new programmes. He had announced a review of the agency's future in June.

His note announcing the abolition said: "Our existing structures have served us well. Our achievements have been remarkable but our tasks are changing, and we must organise to adapt to them." The new division will still need staff in Sheffield, Runcorn, Cheshire, and London.

The employment department confirmed a report in today's Times Educational Supplement that the changes would involve job losses but said that the details were still to be worked out.



Sweeter times ahead: Ken Beever (right), who keeps 200 hives at Stockbury in Kent, is one of the 35,000 British beekeepers hoping to benefit from EC aid intended primarily for hard-pressed apiculturists in southern Europe badly stung by supplies of cheap honey from outside the community (Michael Hornsby writes).

Alarmed by rising imports from countries such as Argentina, China and Mexico, the honey working party of the EC farming lobby, comprising professional agricultural organisations, has

asked Brussels for an annual subsidy of £35 million to supplement the incomes of the keepers.

Most British honey producers are amateurs but in France, Spain, Italy and Greece beekeeping is an important source of income for peasant farmers.

British beekeepers, who supply a specialist market, are not too worried about imports but are enthusiastic about a proposal for a pollination premium which will provide a subsidy for the purchase of sugar that is fed to the bees throughout the winter months.

"I have just taken two tons of honey out my hives and if I did not feed my bees with sugar syrup they would not last the winter," said Mr Beever, seen above with Robert Young, a school teacher. "We need to have the bees fit and well in time for pollination work in the fruit orchards in the spring. I have ordered 2.5 tons of sugar but because of EC support for sugar farmers, sugar costs about £500 a ton, about double the world price."

Mr Beever would also benefit from a proposed income supplement for commercial beekeepers

with more than 150 hives. There are about 150 bee farmers in Britain who would be eligible for that aid, according to Ken Ellis, the general secretary of the Bee Farmers' Association, who helped to draft the plea to Brussels.

"In northern Europe we are on the margins of where the honey bee can exist," Mr Ellis said. "We only get honey two years out of five and we feel we should get the same sort of support as the EC gives to hill farmers. Without our honey bees the whole balance of nature would be disturbed."

Basis of payouts for injustice stays secret

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Office is refusing to meet lawyers' requests to publish criteria of how it arrives at awards of compensation in cases of miscarriages of justice.

The refusal to open up what is a secret process has been sharply criticised by the law reform group Justice, which points out that compensation is now a statutory right.

The refusal is also a setback to solicitors acting for the Guildford Four and will hamper their efforts to put in a meaningful claim for compen-

sation for 15 years' wrongful imprisonment.

Peter Ashman, legal officer of Justice, which has been responsible for obtaining compensation in a number of cases of miscarriages of justice, said: "All that the Home Office publishes are guidelines on the headings under which they will consider damages, but they will not give any criteria about how they arrive at an award; nor will they publish previous awards, even anonymously, so that we have some basis on which to make a

claim."

Even lawyers expert in the field were at a loss to know where to start in making such a claim, Mr Ashman said. "They have asked us for advice, but we cannot give it to them," he said. "Since there is now a statutory right to compensation for wrongful imprisonment, lawyers have a right to know how the figures are arrived at."

Alastair Logan, solicitor for two of the Guildford Four, said: "Since there is this provision in an act of parliament, there should be no reason why the Home Office figures are not available to us."

In other areas where awards were made, such as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, or civil damages in court, the basis for the awards were public knowledge, he said.

The Guildford Four have received interim payments of £50,000, and Mr Logan is trying to formulate a claim for final compensation. He said that he was unable to start because he was still waiting, after nine months, for the Home Office to provide details of their prison records, which would give information about how they arrived at an award; nor will they publish previous awards, even anonymously, so that we have some basis on which to make a

claim."

Even without names, it would be easy to identify the individual involved in many cases if full details were given of the basis on which the assessor arrived at a recommendation. It also maintains that the circumstances of cases differ so much that meaningful comparisons between cases could not be made.

The courts' use of probation and community service orders is to be subject to ethnic monitoring, along with recruitment to the probation service, the Home Office announced yesterday (Quentin Cowdry writes).

The move follows intensifying claims that ethnic minorities face discrimination throughout the criminal justice system. From January, records will be kept of the racial backgrounds of criminals referred to the probation service on conviction.

CBI urges firms to woo staff with childcare help

By TIM JONES, EMPLOYMENT CORRESPONDENT

WITH women expected to fill 800,000 of the million jobs that will be created in Britain by the end of the decade, employers will next month be told that they must act to meet childcare needs so that they attract the workers they want.

By 2000, the CBI and employment experts estimate, Britain's working base will have switched away from male-dominated heavy manufacturing employment to service-related jobs.

In the past three months, 50,000 jobs traditionally associated with male employees have disappeared, and all surveys suggest that this trend will continue, with progressively fewer people being in unskilled categories.

The new jobs will encompass a range of skills, from secretaries using state-of-the-art office equipment to high-powered posts in financial services. Many will be on a part-time basis.

The CBI believes that some employers labour under a myth that the lower birth rate will lead to a shortage of employees, and says that there will be a much larger "grey" population. It estimates that two-thirds of housewife mothers want to return to work if companies can arrange childcare.

At a conference next month, companies will be urged to

consider partnership arrangements between business, local authorities and voluntary organisations to look after children while their mothers work.

John Cridland, the CBI's deputy director for human resources, said that this could enable childcare centres to be set up in the community, freeing mothers from travelling to a company crèche with a child. In any event, he said, crèches were often too costly to be run by an individual firm.

Mr Cridland said: "Partnerships can offer cost-effective provision of childcare, tailored to suit different situations and requirements and may offer more flexibility than workplace nurseries."

Private sector workers would have a legal right to own shares in their companies and to have profit-related pay under proposals made by the Liberal Democrats yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

The plans, to be considered by next month's SLD conference, are part of a new approach to industrial relations.

Instead of the government imposing obligations on firms, employees would be given legally enforceable rights. They would be entitled to a voice in decision-making by firms and to share in profits under schemes vetted by an industrial partnership agency.

Sit-in costs £80,000 a day

Shell yesterday said a continued sit-in by dismissed contract workers on its North Sea oil platforms could pose a threat to the country's balance of payments.

The company is asking the Court of Session to issue an interim interdict forcing 127 men to leave six platforms and two accommodation vessels. The men have staged a sit-in to protest against the dismissals after a series of wildcat strikes.

Andrew Hardie, QC, for Shell, told Lord Cameron that the dispute was costing Shell £80,000 a day but the figure would rise if production was lost due to delays in finishing essential maintenance and repair work. He said the national interest was involved as the platforms produced £4 million worth of oil a day of which the government received £2.95 million.

Shell says the workers, who were dismissed by their contractor employers, are trespassing. It said that because of industrial action on one vessel, a search and rescue helicopter faced delays in getting to incidents in the Brent Field. The hearing continues today.

Doubts over water safety

Two people who drank tap water from a contaminated water supply in Camelford, Cornwall, two years ago, were found to have aluminium deposits in their bones eight months later, according to a study published in *The Lancet* yesterday. It throws into question health department assurances that the accidental contamination with 20 tonnes of aluminium sulphate solution would have no long term health effects.

Coe marries

Sebastian Coe, aged 33, the Olympic athlete and Conservative candidate selected last year to defend the Falmouth Camboise seat after David Mudd, the Tory MP, said that he would retire, was married yesterday. His bride, Nicola McIlvaine, aged 29, who was previously married to the horsebreeder John McIlvaine, is a showjumper. The ceremony took place at Guildford registry office in Surrey.

Irish rail strike

A one-day strike will hit more than 100,000 rail passengers in the Irish Republic today. All passenger and freight services run by Irish Rail will be halted by the strike, which will also hit the Dublin suburban train service, known as the Dart, which brings commuters into the city. Railworkers are taking action over productivity payments, claiming a rise for extra work resulting from 500 job losses since 1985.

Guinness jury

The jury in the Guinness trial at Southwark Crown Court spent its third night in a hotel last night and will continue deliberations today. Ernest Saunders, former chairman of Guinness, and three leading businessmen have variously denied charges of theft, false accounting and breach of the company's act.

Chess losers

All three members of the English Olympic chess team competing in the Lloyds Bank Open Tournament at the Cumberland Hotel, Marble Arch, London, were beaten in the sixth round yesterday. The leaders after six rounds are Mihai Suba, 6pts, and Stuart Conquest 5½pts.

Death in lift

Karen Hall, aged 19, from Edinburgh, died yesterday and Douglas Brown, aged 25, from Kirkcubright was injured when the two chiefs were trapped in a lift normally used for food trolleys at the Scandic Crown Hotel in Edinburgh.

SNP support

A Scottish opinion poll published last night showed that the Scottish National Party and the Conservatives each won 22 per cent of the vote. The poll, by ICM/Market Research for the BBC, gave Labour the lead at 48 per cent.

Buying The Times overseas: Australia \$20.00, Belgium £10.00, Canada \$20.00, France £10.00, Germany \$20.00, Hong Kong \$20.00, India \$20.00, Italy £10.00, Japan \$20.00, New Zealand \$20.00, Norway £10.00, Portugal £10.00, Singapore \$20.00, South Africa £10.00, Sweden £10.00, Switzerland £10.00, Taiwan \$20.00, Thailand \$20.00, USA \$20.00, West Germany £10.00, Yugoslavia £10.00.

Peer tunes in to differing styles

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

AS THE first London buses crammed with dancing teenagers race around the capital to promote the September relaunch of Kiss FM as London's latest independent radio station, Lord Chalfont, the chairman of the shadow Radio Authority, will be quietly pondering whether or not there is a difference between rock and pop music.

Rock FM, the consortium competing with Classic FM for the national "non-pop" FM radio franchise, thinks there is and has mounted a campaign, including a petition with tens of thousands of signatures, to convince the Independent Broadcasting

Authority that it should not be excluded from the bidding.

So far, the consortium's campaign appears to be working. In a surprise decision yesterday, the broadcasting authority said it is likely to define "album rock", that is hits that do not reach the Top 40, as "non-pop".

"It's not definite yet, but our internal thinking now is that Rock FM could bid for the non-pop station as long as less than 25 per cent of its output is singles chart material," David Vick, the Radio Authority's head of development, said. A final decision will be made in mid-September.

"I'm over the moon. I'm thrilled," Harvey Goldsmith,

managing director of concert promoter Allied Entertainment Group, said. His promotion company is part of the Rock FM consortium.

"Mike Jagger just asked me last night what was happening with the radio thing. Everyone wants to know. Britain has the best of rock talent, but bands have to go to the States first because there's no airplay here," he said.

Rock FM had been worried that those born before 1940 may not understand the differences. "We were determined that the whispering campaign carried out by a well-funded classical music lobby would not exclude us from applying," said a Rock FM spokesman.



Lord Chalfont: trying to clarify styles of music

Fears over health reform

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

PATIENTS must be consulted about local plans to establish a competitive market as part of the health service reforms, the National Consumer Council said yesterday.

The council has sent a letter to Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, saying that patients would be able to benefit from the changes next April only if they were consulted about their needs and expectations. These needs should then be built into the contracts being drawn for the internal market which will enable health authorities to start buying services from hospitals.

The letter said that patients should also be involved in evaluating the quality of the service. "We do not see how purchasers and providers can operate without involving the third party - the patients."

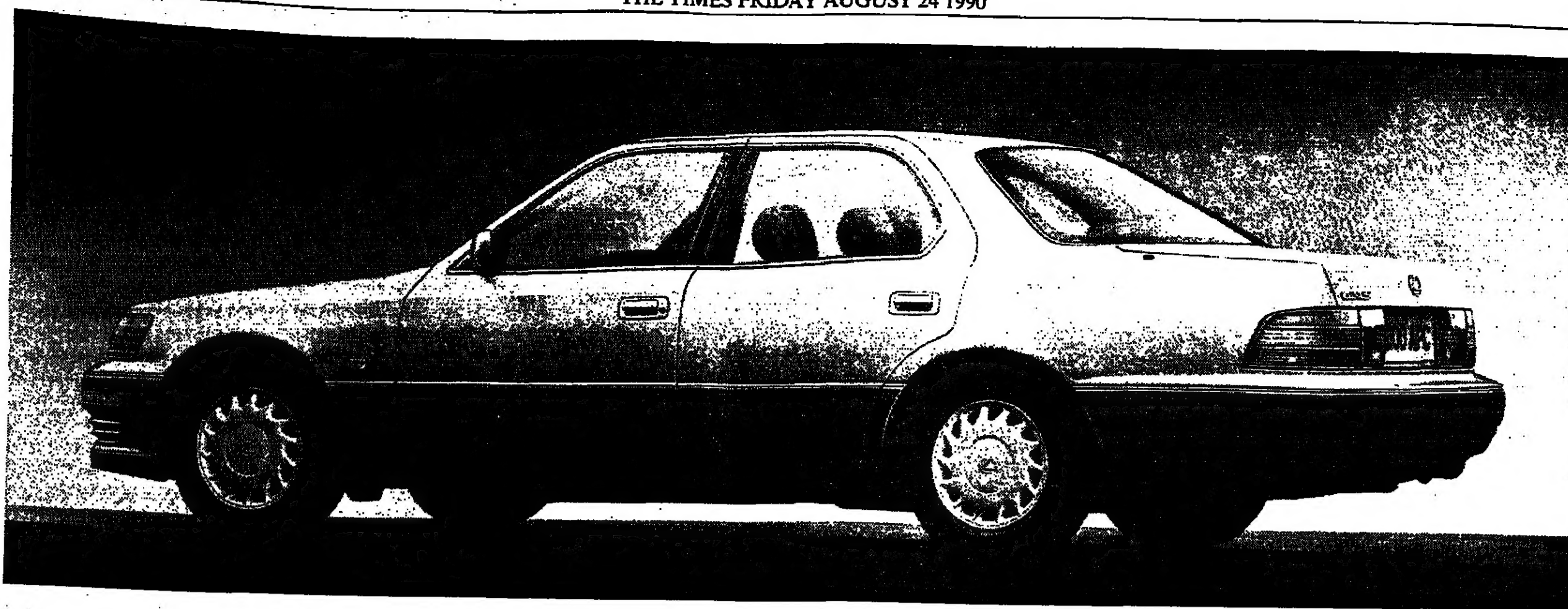
Unless health authorities took positive steps to find out what local needs were, they might end up with contracts that suited buyers and sellers but not the patients, the letter said. Patients might be sent to hospitals hundreds of miles away as, in theory, health authorities would be able to buy care anywhere.

The council called on the government to spell out to health authorities how they should consult consumers.

"We think health authorities should be mounting publicity campaigns in the local media, now, and in inviting patients and organisations to contact them," the letter said.

There must also be a strong, well-publicised complaints procedure so that poor or bad services can be publicly identified and action taken to put things right. We cannot condone a conspiracy of silence over poor services."

The annual growth rate in NHS spending has been lower under the Thatcher government than under any other since 1954, according to a Labour party report published yesterday. Since 1979, 468 hospitals had closed, bed numbers had fallen by 16 per cent and prescription charges had risen from 20p to £3.05.



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KGB troops sent to stop border protest by Balts and Poles

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

TROOPS of the KGB were deployed along the Polish-Soviet border last night to block a big demonstration marking the anniversary of the 1939 Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. Church bells tolled in Warsaw, eastern Poland and the Baltic republics and a chain of fires was lit to protest against the German-Soviet agreement that deprived Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania of their independence and carved up Poland.

It had been intended that Lithuanians, led by Sajudis, the independence movement, should demonstrate yesterday and join hands with Poles brought by bus to the border by Solidarity. But General Valentin Gaponenko, the Soviet commander in the region, said that he would block any attempt to violate the border.

KGB troops in armoured personnel carriers were brought into the area on Wednesday night and yesterday morning to make the point that Moscow, not Vilnius, decides on the status of the frontier.

Nevertheless, President Vy-

tautas of Lithuania called on his countrymen to take part in the demonstration. Aligned Ozeckis of Sajudis said in Vilnius that there was no possibility of abandoning it.

Activists from the Baltic republics want to put autonomy for the three countries back on the European summit agenda. The Soviet Union admitted last year to the existence of a secret protocol to the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact. This was published in full by the Solidarity daily *Gazeta Wyborcza* yesterday.

The pact, signed on August 23 1939, made possible the outbreak of war, since the Germans could not have risked invading Poland without Soviet collusion. The Germans also declared a "lack of political interest" in the future of Bessarabia, giving Stalin a free hand in the south. This remains a matter of burning resentment in relations between Romania and Moscow.

The pact has come to illustrate the frictions of the Gorbachev era. In the name of glasnost, the Gorbachev administration has admitted the pact was illegitimate. At the

same time, Moscow is incapable of following up this admission by restoring the independence of the Baltic republics, since this would unravel the Soviet Union.

The strains in Polish policy towards Lithuania and Mr Gorbachev are also exposed. The seventieth anniversary of the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920, when Polish troops swept through to Kiev, is being far more noisily commemorated than the 1939 pact. The Solidarity government supports the long-term goal of Lithuanian independence, but it is still partly though decreasingly — dependent on the political survival of Mr Gorbachev.

● MOSCOW: By a vote of 183 to two, the Armenian parliament yesterday declared independence with the intention of seceding from the Soviet Union.

The resolution invalidates the Soviet constitution on Armenian territory and calls for the creation of armed forces to safeguard the border, often the scene of conflict with the neighbouring Soviet republic of Azerbaijan. (AP)

East Europe's populist myth dispelled

By ROGER BOYES

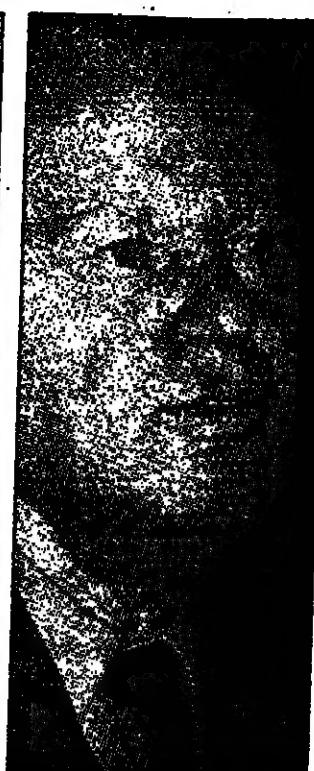
ROMANIA'S grudging admission that Nicolae Ceausescu, the late dictator, was ousted in an orchestrated coup rather than by a wave of popular unrest has raised important questions about the spontaneity of the 1989 revolutions in Eastern Europe.

Silviu Brucan, the chief strategist of the National Salvation Front, and other key figures in the Christmas revolution had initially dismissed reports, first carried by *The Times* in January, that there was a long-standing plot to seize power. Now the myth of a liberation of the people by the people has crumbled.

The most sensitive issue, however, is still cloaked in mystery: if there was a conspiracy to topple Ceausescu, then how far was Moscow involved? From various accounts emerging, it seems clear that the Soviet Union was an active player.

Rather than see communist control slip away, Moscow tried to engineer a handover of power from hardline Brezhnev-era leaders to reform-minded communists. Apart from President Iliescu of Romania, these East European "Gorbachevs" — the Mladenovs, the Krenz, the Rakowski — have been swept away.

Soviet participation, or at least foreknowledge, of the conspiracy against Ceausescu can be deduced from a mass of



Conspiracy theory: Moscow masterminded the downfall of Ceausescu, left, with help from Silviu Brucan, centre, the Romanian party ideologist, and Ion Iliescu

circumstantial detail. Rail traffic from the Soviet Union to Romania was interrupted a day before the revolution spread to Bucharest. Within hours of Ceausescu's final, humiliating appearance on the balcony of his palace, Soviet goods were being ferried into the country. In a swift show of support, Eduard Shevard-

nade, the Soviet foreign minister, visited Bucharest on January 6 when there were still shooting incidents.

Given the totalitarian structure of the Ceausescu regime it was inevitable that the conspirators would seek some help from neighbouring Soviet Union.

But unlike the transition in

doomed to fail was not immediately obvious. Last November when it was still assumed that the Soviet Union could never tolerate a capitalist East Germany, and when German unification was still only diplomatic chicanery. Only when Herr Modrow misjudged the issue of the Stasi did it become plain that the Soviet candidate had failed and that there could be no German Gorbachev.

□ Czechoslovakia: On the same day that Mr Falin was interviewing East German leaders, police were beating down demonstrators in Prague and a KGB general was having dinner in a safe house in the Czechoslovak capital. The demonstration ignited the revolution and accelerated the downfall of Milos Jakes, the hardline party chief. November 17 was also the day Jan Fojtik, the chief party ideologist, returned from a surprise trip to Moscow with clear instructions to re-evaluate the Prague spring of 1968: putting into doubt the survival of the Jakes leadership whose claim to leadership was the Soviet-led crushing of the 1967-68 reforms. A Czechoslovak government commission has looked more precisely into the events preceding the demonstration, and has come up with a number of interesting but inconclusive details.

General Alojz Lorenc, the head of the Czechoslovak security police, visited Moscow in August and September and on both occasions talked with General Kryuchkov of the KGB. On the day of the demonstration General Viktor Grushko, the deputy chairman of the KGB, was in Prague dining with General Lorenc.

The next day General Grushko left for home. There are other facts suggesting that the demonstration might have been manoeuvred. The police had deployed the anti-terrorist squad and were more prepared than before to use violence. A police provocateur guided the marchers towards a clash with the police.

These events do not add up to proof of a conspiracy and it would be strange if the KGB gambled so heavily on the outcome of a demonstration. But it is highly probable that both the Soviet and Czechoslovak intelligence services tried to accelerate the downfall of Mr Jakes and open the way for a Gorbachev-type candidate, such as Ladislav Adamec.

There is nothing watertight here, but it does seem as if the KGB which imposed Soviet control on postwar Europe made a last-ditch attempt to preserve Moscow's influence. A conspiracy theory, though seemingly an echo of another, colder era, can at least explain the remarkable coincidence of revolutions last November and December.

Vague references to the winds of change or the infectious qualities of television have never been wholly satisfactory. There is still a great deal of information to unearth, not least in Romania, the scene of the bloodiest of the revolutions.

● SIBIU: Nicu, the son of Nicolae Ceausescu, who is on trial charged with genocide, should be released for urgent medical attention, the court ruled yesterday. But, in response to protests by the state prosecutor, the military judges agreed to keep him in jail until today while they consider the prosecutor's objections.

Court sources said the trial was coming to an end and the verdict could come within days. Nicu, aged 38, and the former Communist party chief in Sibiu is suffering from advanced cirrhosis of the liver. (Reuter)

Germanies agree on merger treaty

FROM GERALD STECHEN IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the West German chancellor, said yesterday that East Germany's decision to merge with West Germany on October 3 had cleared a stable path towards German unification.

All-German elections will now be held on December 2, after the Bundestag yesterday approved a treaty on German unification with East Germany. The East German Volkskammer had passed a similar measure on Wednesday.

"This is a day of great joy for all Germans," Herr Kohl told the Bundestag just hours after the East German unity vote. The Volkskammer had voted in the early hours of the morning in favour of the October 3 merger date, ending weeks of bickering over the timetable for German unification. Debate in East Berlin had turned into a confusing spectacle of partisan politics while the nation's economy and civil authority slid into decline.

Before the Volkskammer vote, Herr Kohl's government had made it clear it was weary of the endless haggling over the date. Bonn had suggested that unity take place in early October. In his speech to the Bundestag, Herr Kohl praised the Volkskammer deputies

and the East German people, whose peaceful pro-democracy revolution last year ended four decades of communist rule. "But we must also remember those who suffered so greatly by this terrible division of our country," Herr Kohl said, referring to tens of thousands of political prisoners jailed by the communists and the more than 190 people who were killed trying to scale the Berlin Wall.

The chancellor also praised the Hungarian government for its decision last year to open its border and allow East German refugees to flee to the West. "You tore away the first stone from the Berlin Wall," he said. But he said none of these events would have been possible without vastly improved superpower relations and the influence of President Gorbachev.

Herr Kohl pledged to speed the process of economic recovery in East Germany, which has been faltering since German economic and currency union on July 1. But he gave warning that "40 years of socialist mismanagement cannot be reversed in a matter of weeks... The rebuilding of East Germany will come not in days, but in months and years."



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DEDRA. THE NEW LANCIA

Burning and killing goes on in black township war

From GAVIN BELL IN KAGISO

EVEN in darkness there can be moments of light relief. After another night of violence in black townships around Johannesburg, a tense confrontation developed yesterday in Kagiso, a flashpoint of the strife between Zulus and local residents.

Chanting "burn them out" and carrying a fearsome array of primitive weapons, a ragtag army of several hundred township dwellers marched on a migrant workers' hostel intent on driving its Zulus out and burning it down.

As a police helicopter clattered overhead, they halted before a thin line of armed riot police. Less than a hundred yards away, 3,000 Zulus wearing red bandannas gathered up their assegais, clubs and pangas and prepared for battle.

There was a sense that the least provocation on either side could precipitate a blood-bath. Then, out of the crowd came a youth in ragged trousers. Strolling towards the police line with a benign smile, he suddenly collapsed,

jumped up and whipped into a furious break-dance routine.

His friends began to laugh and cheer him with rhythmic clapping. The police relaxed and the tension evaporated. After consultations between community leaders and senior police officers, the crowd drifted away.

Elsewhere the blood-letting continues. After more than 500 deaths in ten days, the desire for revenge on both sides is strong and the police cannot patrol everywhere, particularly after dark.

Elsewhere in Kagiso yesterday, a mother was mourning a baby hacked to death and a mob was pillaging and burning shacks. Asked why, they said: "These are Zulu houses." Tear gas still hung in the air from police action to disperse looters.

Inevitably, opinions vary on causes and solutions. The perception among residents is that Zulus belonging to the Natal-based Inkatha movement are being used by clandestine government security agencies to provoke a township war with Xhosa-speaking tribes who broadly support the African National Congress.

However improbable this may seem, the citizens of Kagiso are convinced of it and cite as evidence Zulus being driven into the area by whites whom they suspect of being security officers.

Peter Kine, a schoolteacher in the crowd marching to the Zulu hostel, said: "These people have been brought here by the police to kill us. The police prevent us from going to the hostel during the day, but at night they withdraw and the Zulus attack us. This is a war which will end only when these people leave and the hostels are demolished."

Nomvula Mokonyane, an official of the local residents' association, agreed. "This is not a tribal war," he said. "I am a Zulu but my friends here all speak Xhosa. It is the (state) system which is orchestrating this conflict to destabilise progressive forces. Inkatha is just being used as a tool."

On the other side, Joshua Indaba, a local Inkatha official, said: "This is a fight between Inkatha and the ANC. The Xhosa are attacking the Zulu nation and we are fighting back." Mr Indaba, a chemical factory worker, said he had lived in the hostel for 18 years and denied that Inkatha imps had been brought in recently to swell its fighting ranks.

"We are here to work, not to do violence. Fighting makes no sense. You lose everything, and you cannot support your family."

To murmurs of assent, he said the only solution was a peace agreement between Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader. "We cannot solve it ourselves. It is up to the leaders."

Moves are under way to convene high-level talks between the two sides, but so far Mr Mandela has shown a marked reluctance to be involved. The prevailing view in the ANC is that Chief Buthe should not be accorded the political status of meeting its veteran leader as an equal.

The police have a difficult and dangerous task. Senior officers admit that all they can do is to keep the warring groups apart as far as possible, pending a political solution.

The prospect of peace in Kagiso and other townships appears remote as long as the national leaders lag behind the scenes.



Battle line: South African police, some wearing riot gear, firing tear gas in Kagiso township yesterday to break up crowds of looters

Lull in Cambodian conflict renews peace hopes

From NEIL KELLY IN BANGKOK

A PAUSE in the Cambodian war has coincided with new diplomatic attempts to end the conflict and signs that some of the leading participants are ready to compromise at peace negotiations.

As the Cambodian resistance lead-

ers met in Peking and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council prepared for fresh discussions in New York next week, Red Cross officials in Cambodia said hospitals, which had been busy all year, had received few casualties this month.

The decline in fighting meant

foreign aid workers could travel more freely and with smaller military escorts. Food and medicine, however, were needed for more than 100,000 refugees who had been driven from their homes by the fighting.

Near the Thai border at Battambang, Cambodia's second largest city, which the Khmer Rouge have

kept under partial siege for months, the Red Cross said there was little military activity. Trains were running in several areas and farmers were able to send produce to market regularly.

Heavy rains have impeded military operations, although diplomats believe the latest peace moves are also curbing the level of fighting.

Australia awarded its birth certificate

From REUTER IN CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA yesterday finally received a copy of the document which ended its status as a British colony in 1901 and created the nation.

The faded document, printed on vellum, was formally handed over by Britain's deputy prime minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, in a ceremony in parliament here. Sir Geoffrey said it was right Australia should want its "birth certificate".

The Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke, replied he doubted it would "stop some of you poms (Britons) calling us Australian bastards". Mr Hawke, aged 60, has in the past said Australia may become a republic within his lifetime, but still remain in the Commonwealth of former British colonies.

Britain this year amended its laws to allow a permanent handover of the original copy of the Australia Constitution Act, which Australia had had on loan since 1988. A second copy of the Act will stay in Britain. Britain at first refused to hand over the document, because it wished to preserve an unbroken series of archives stretching back to the 13th century, but later relented.

Mugabe cleaves to hard line

From MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

TOUGH statements by President Mugabe on appeasing peasants' hunger for land at the expense of commercial farmers and on the introduction of a one-party state have dashed hopes that Zimbabwe is moving away from hardline socialist ideology.

Mr Mugabe told a development conference in the city of Gweru in Midlands province yesterday that a primary objective of his second five-year national development plan would be to acquire an additional 13 million acres of land. At the same time, his ruling Zanu (PF) party stood by its objective of a one-party state, regardless of international trends.

"In recent months, we have witnessed political changes in Eastern Europe which have led some misguided political theorists to conclude they are a rejection of the one-party system."

"Our party firmly stands by the one-party policy as the best insurer of a stable democracy," Mr Mugabe said in his first public reference to reports that an overwhelming majority of his 26-member politburo recently urged him not to amend the British-designed constitution to ban opposition parties.

Zimbabwe's Western trading partners and the local business community have been as dismayed as the 4,500 mainly white commercial farmers by news that Mr Mugabe plans to nationalise 93 per cent of the fertile "maize and tobacco belt", which is the source of 42 per cent of the country's foreign currency earnings, to settle 110,000 peasant families.

A leaked cabinet document suggested £135 million compensation would be offered for farms currently worth £850 million. The retiring head of the commercial farmers union, John Brown, said that the move would frighten away foreign investment vital to create opportunities for 1.5 million unemployed. He proposed a commission to identify land where peasants could be settled.

Special Report, pages 27-30

Suspected bomber freed

West Berlin — A Lebanese man arrested as a suspect in the April 1986 bombing of a West Berlin discotheque that led to US air raids on Libya has been released for lack of evidence, officials said. Ali Mansur was arrested on July 25 on a tip from a former East German secret police source linking Mr Mansur with the La Belle disco attack. However, West Berlin officials said the tip was based on third-hand information which was insufficient to justify continued arrest of the suspect. (AP)

Sentences lifted

Prague — Prison sentences ordered in 1979 on President Havel, Jiri Dienstbier, the foreign minister, and the head of the CTK state news agency, for alleged subversion were annulled by the Prague City Court, CTK reported. (AP)

Election bar

Guatemala City — The national election board has barred former dictator José Efraín Ríos Montt from running for president in elections set for November 11. (AP)

Population boom

New York — The estimated world population in mid-1990 is 5.3 billion, rising to 6.3 billion by 2000, according to the United Nations. (Reuters)

Fires controlled

Marseilles — Firemen brought under control wind-driven blazes that had destroyed homes and forced Riviera tourists to flee. More than 1,700 men worked in the Var region to control a fire. (AP)

Tobacco laws

Wellington — New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation banning most tobacco advertising and allowing for fines of up to \$NZ250,000 (about £16,000). (Reuters)

Hijack sequel

Helsinki — Finland has extradited a Soviet hijacker, Mikhail Varfolomeyev, aged 20, who claimed he was put in a mental hospital for refusing military service. (Reuters)

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Superlativism at its worstest

Philip Howard

You don't have to be mad to be a newspaper proprietor, but it sometimes helps. Lord Northcliffe, one of the all-time, modern-day greatest newspaper publishers, went literally mad while running *The Times*. He fought a war to the death with the old *Times* men on the staff, whom he called the Black Friars. Even before he finally flipped, he was eccentric. He was notorious for sacking journalists without their feet touching the ground. He once asked one of the Black Friars whether he was happy at his work. "Yes, sir," replied the hack. "Then you are dismissed," snapped the Chief. "I don't want anybody here to be content on £5 a week."

He was no mean scribbler himself, a habit in proprietors that alarms their journalists. But I don't see the fun of owning a paper if you can't get it to publish your pieces, uncut and prominently displayed. Northcliffe was a noisy writer. His pieces were scored fortissimo, and he never used one superlative if two superlatives occurred to him. I have not been able to find "modern-day" or "all-time" in his writing, but they are the sort of phrases he would have used if they had occurred to him. They are becoming vague intensifiers in journalism, making more bang than light.

Here are some examples from a recent issue of *The Times*. "They are calling it the ultimate Easter Egg, a modern-day rival to the creations of the legendary Russian jeweller Fabergé." (Apart from that modern-day, Peter Carl Fabergé, 1846-1920, was a legend only if you are using the word in the Northcliffean sense as a journalistic rocket.) "A modern-day lady Godiva..." "Steve Davis (the poker-faced chalk and cue) begins his quest for a modern-day record of seven titles." "Modern-day old boys include Lord Home of the Hirsel..." And from the letters column, I am afraid, so you out there do it as well as we in here: "One wonders which elements of modern-day history it is proposed not to teach."

What does modern-day say that is not conveyed by the adjective modern? I guess it is brought about by analogy with the phrase present-day, but it looks to me like the pleonasm of the month, which we had better try to squash before it takes over the world. "All-time" is another bit of Northcliffean bombast, saying not much more than: "Pay attention, damn you, this is important." Here are two recent examples from the same issue of *The Times*. "It will prevent drivers in future years from becoming misty-eyed and naming the Lexus among their list of all-time great cars." And: "The car is still the fifth best-selling British car of all time."

A superlative is the mostest of whatever quality the adjective denotes. You cannot have more than one greatest. By adding Northcliffean intensifiers such as

"all-time" and "truly" and "uniquely", you actually diminish rather than magnify what you are trying to say. Journalism is a flashy form of English, and we catch these little intensifiers from each other like the pox, they rage for a while, and eventually, with a bit of luck, they become laughing-stocks and die of shame.

What we have here in "modern-day" and "all-time" is a pleonasm, a pleonasm, a most modern-day and all-time irritating pleonasm. Pleonasm comes from the Greek word meaning to be superfluous, ultimately from *pleon*, meaning more or too much. Another word for it is tautology, Greek for saying the same thing twice. Other labels and departments in this crowded style of writing are repetition, otiosity, superfluity, and elegant variation. Repetition is not always a vice. It can be an effective rhetorical device. "At her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down: at her feet he bowed, he fell, he lay down." When repetition is deliberate, it tends to be called by the poetical name of anaphora, "bringing back". In the Gettysburg address, Abe Lincoln deployed anaphora powerfully: "It is for us... and at the same time demonstrated that it is effective (sometimes) to start a sentence with the naughty little word 'it'."

Not all journalists are as eloquent as Deborah and Barak, or Abraham Lincoln. When we repeat ourselves, it tends to be unconscious and incompetent pleonasm rather than deliberate anaphora. The repetition can be in a phrase: original source, more preferable, important essentials, early beginnings, raze to the ground, still continue, connect together, twice over, still remain, past history, merge together. I blush, I blush. The list could be interminably endless. The two latest new recruits to it are modern-day and all-time, and I must get the computer Einsteins to program my machine to flash "Syntax Error" at me whenever I tap the phrases into it.

More fun than the fat, otiose, repetitious phrases, which take a single idea and then bung it in several times over again, in case once did not seem adequate enough, are the obese sentences. "Count A was made the recipient of a national presentation." "She set herself a standard of endurance and privation approximately as nearly as possible to that which she understood prevailed on the Western Front."

...and moreover

ALAN COREN

I probably would not occur to you that a Frenchman eating a pig's trotter without looking at it meant that civilisation had arrived at yet another dispiriting T-junction, but that would be only because you were not at Chanas yesterday. No, at any rate, in the Restaurant de l'Autoroute, sitting opposite the Frenchman not looking at his *pied de porc*. And, moreover, sitting next to the Frenchman not looking at his *confit de canard* on one side of you, and, on the other, the Frenchman not looking at his *steak frites*.

If, indeed, that was what they were not looking at. It was difficult to be certain, given the mess they had made of their plates through not looking at them; a difficulty compounded, furthermore, by the fact that I could only steal glimpses at these plates - while not looking at my own - because of what I, like them, was looking at instead.

All this not looking at was particularly sad, in view of the amount of looking forward that had preceded it. I had been looking forward to Chanas ever since leaving Nice, and 300 miles is a long way to salivate. For Chanas is a spot at which we have frequently tied on the lunchtime bib, because of Plan B.

Plan A is to get to Lyon in time to see whether Paul Bocuse is still worth his three rosettes, but somehow we never quite make it. I pm chimes and we are still, invariably, 50 miles south of Lyon, and there is no point pushing on and grinding through the Lyon jams, coming out the other side of 3pm to find Bocuse hanging up his toque and unplugging the blender. So Plan B swings into operation, because the Chanas service area offers the best motorway restaurant there is, possibly because they know all about Plan A and realise that theirs is a finicky clientele likely to start chucking crockery about if the foie gras is short on truffles.

You know how it is when you walk into a familiar spot and there is something just a bit unfamiliar about it that you cannot immediately put your finger on. Or, in this case, your ear. It took me perhaps a minute to twig that the res-

taurant, though packed to the gunwales, was unprecedentedly quiet. People were not talking. From the door, I could not see why they were not talking, but when I sat down I could not only see why they were not talking, I could also see that their heads, instead of being directed at their plates, were flicking eyes upward, from side to side. Flicking is perhaps a bit strong; think of a vicarage tennis-lawn audience watching a baseline game between two very old ladies, and you will get the pace about right.

Because the Chanas management, in the conviction that it was doing a good thing, has done a dreadful one. Atop each of the restaurant's four central pillars, it has hung four television monitors at right angles to one another, so that every diner, wherever he sits, is able to watch at least two of the 16 screens. These screens are linked to four security cameras, each glued to one of the four car parks outside. The picture changes every 15 seconds, in relay; which means that every diner, by flicking his head, can, twice every minute, watch his car.

Or, more to the point, he cannot not watch his car. If your car is on a security screen installed by the management at great expense, you have to keep an eye on it all the time to see what it is the management believes you have to keep an eye on it for. A thief, a careless driver, an infant with a little hammer, a coachload of Mill-wall supporters - who knows what could creep up on it, especially in the two lots of 15 seconds it is off the screens you can see?

We sat transfixed. What we did could not be described as eating; we were simply poking things through a hole in our heads as quickly as possible, so that we could watch what we never worried about in the days when we couldn't see it at all, but worried ourselves witless about now that we could see it half the time.

That is why civilisation is at a T-junction. France is being asked to choose between its stomach and its car. If I ever get to Bocuse again, I shall probably find it's a drive-in.

Tim Congdon on strains pushing Britain into recession that are exacerbated by Iraq

Financial folly on the home front

British companies have bitter memories of the recession of 1980 and 1981, their worst post-war slump. Manufacturing was hit particularly badly, with output falling by 17.5 per cent from the second quarter of 1979 to first quarter of 1981. If there is one thing that our industrialists can agree upon, it is that the experience must never be repeated.

Unhappily, the economic situation today has several close parallels with that recession. In 1979 and 1980, oil prices soared because of war in the Gulf; British interest rates were the highest in the industrial world to restrain inflationary pressures, and the pound was exceptionally strong on the foreign exchanges. In an almost identical setting, can industry escape a trauma as bad as that in 1980 and 1981? Or are there mitigating influences this time? And how should the government react?

The first point to make is that the oil shock now is much smaller than in the last recession. The oil price almost trebled between 1978

and 1980, with the average price of Forties Brent up from \$14 a barrel to \$37. The likelihood of this being repeated in 1990 and 1991 is low. So far the oil price is up from an average last year of \$18 a barrel to \$30, but most analysts expect increased production from Saudi Arabia and other countries to bring this back to about \$25.

Moreover, the price of oil in sterling has risen less than appears because of the sharp fall in the dollar. With the pound today at about \$1.95 - almost 20 per cent up on last year's average value - the sterling price of oil is roughly 50 per cent higher than in 1989. This is a nuisance, but it does not by itself radically increase most companies' costs.

If the oil price remains in the \$25-\$30 range, the effects on the British economy will not be very great. The price level will be about 1½ to 2 percentage points higher than it would have been, although much depends on how other energy prices react. There is likely to be a significant redistribution of

income from oil consumers and companies that buy oil to companies that sell oil and the government (which will tax the oil companies' extra profits), but the net effect on spending power and real incomes will be minimal, because Britain produces just enough oil to be a small net exporter. It follows that if the British economy were to enter a recession, the latest oil shock would be only partly to blame. The wounds of the recession would be mostly self-inflicted.

There is no secret about the origins of the trouble. Britain has to eliminate the inflationary pressures created in 1987 and 1988, and that boom is best interpreted as the result of excessive growth of credit and the money supply. Nigel Lawson's decisions in late 1985 to scrap broad money targets and to concentrate on the exchange rate are vital in explaining what is happening. Those decisions made possible the wonderful trading conditions and buoyant company profits two and

three years later. But the subsequent need to reimpose constraints has made inevitable the corporate financial strains, production cutbacks and staff layoffs of 1990 and 1991.

Mr Lawson and his advisers may have thought they were eliminating the muddles of monetarism, and introducing a simpler, clearer policy. But they did not do such thing. They merely embraced the muddles of exchange rate management.

If the pound continues to rise next week, industrialists will start to bleat about recession. They are likely to urge early entry into the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System to cap the pound's rise, even if an exchange rate of 3.05 against the Deutschmark is higher than expected. The government may well accept the argument. One of the safest forecasts an economist can make is that in the two following years the muddles and confusions of exchange-rate management will be much on display.

From the outset there will be vehement debate about whether the pound is "too high" for the long-term good of British industry, or "too low" for inflation control. This will be accompanied by a most technical dispute about the relative merits of 6 per cent or 2½ per cent divergence bands around the sterling exchange rate in the EMS grid. The squabble among economists will be every bit as heated and inconclusive as those in the early 1980s about the merits of different monetary aggregates.

Whether we are inside or outside the EMS, the squeeze on companies will intensify. Unless interest rates are cut, the slow-down will evolve into a full-scale recession late this year and in 1991. It will be ironic if British companies are as angry with the EMS late next year as they were with monetarism and the medium-term financial strategy in late 1981.

The author is managing director of the economic consultants Lombard Street Research.

The world needs a policeman — and he needs an arrest



As George Bush faces pressure from America's right to temper his use of arms, Jeane Kirkpatrick, former UN representative and a leading conservative intellectual, urges him to press on

confrontation with Saddam Hussein to the brink of war.

It was obvious from his first reaction to the invasion that George Bush - who has warm feelings towards many Arab rulers and regimes - detested Saddam Hussein. As with Panama, Mr Bush quickly personalised the Gulf conflict, calling Saddam a liar and a bully. In both cases the personalisation of conflict was appropriate. In Saddam's Iraq, as once in Noriega's Panama, the leader's appetite drives policy. And in both cases Mr Bush's strong personal feelings energised the US administration and heightened the drama, stimulating in the American media images of *High Noon* and questions like, "Can Bush make Saddam blink?"

But obviously there is much more at stake than a blink, as Bush, Saddam, and the world understand. Can war now be avoided? Perhaps. Should it be? Yes. The invasion of Kuwait was so clear and brutal an act of aggression that accepting it is unthinkable - the other Gulf states understand their vulnerability. What then might happen? A prolonged international blockade of Iraq? A full-scale war ending with Iraq's surrender? A negotiation of some sort in which Saddam agrees to release foreigners, with-

draw troops, and restore the previous Kuwaiti government? All are possible. All are problematic. None is certain to produce a desirable outcome.

Since Saddam has repeatedly demonstrated a powerful predilection to strike at those he feels strong enough to destroy, any acceptable end to this war - including a negotiated end - should destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and dismantle the capacity to produce more. No negotiated end to this conflict should leave Saddam Hussein and his war-making capacity intact, free to wait for a favourable moment to strike again. It is extremely unlikely that a man who habitually underestimates his opponents will agree to this.

A prolonged blockade will be difficult to sustain, because it offers such rewards for successful evasion. It requires sustained patience and co-operation.

War is an undesirable option not only because it is costly in lives and resources but because wars are profoundly destabilising and their consequences unpredictable. As Clausewitz insisted: "War is the province of chance." The unanticipated, unwanted progeny of the first world war include the Bolshevik revolution and the Soviet regime, the Fascist and

Nazi governments, then the second world war, the unexpected consequences of which included a divided Europe, communist regimes and the cold war. One need not be a pessimist to see that a major Gulf war would be profoundly destabilising for the fragile regimes of the Middle East and dangerous for Israel, whose Arab neighbours would emerge better armed and better prepared for war. (Already there is talk of giving Saudi Arabia updated F-15s, which it has so far been denied.)

War is also the natural habitat of Saddam, whose official publications in peaceful times boasted that "Iraqis realise that only the drops of blood can create the flowers of life", and bragged that "the ever-ready blood of martyrs is available to 'irrigate the seeds of freedom and dignity'."

What then should George Bush - and Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Britain, France and other countries - now do? Having taken the lead in this mobilisation of forces the US must not fail to achieve its goals. I believe they should continue as they are now doing: not only blockading Iraq, but closing any leaks. They should build military strength, reinforce and extend alliances, keep cool, and wait. Saddam will have further opportunity to demonstrate his

moral qualities in his treatment of Kuwait and Western hostages. He will have the opportunity to crack under the strain and be overthrown by Iraqi lack of repression and military adventures.

There will also be time for the United States and its friends and allies to observe and assess the world's capacity for collective action and security in this first crisis of the post-cold-war world. So far, collective security has failed. The 15 members of the UN Security Council have done better than in the past, but not well enough to cope with a determined aggressor. Neither NATO nor the Western European Union has proved an effective arena for mobilising a military response. Several NATO members, notably Turkey and Britain, have been active and helpful. France, after great uncertainty, decided to join the effort. The Arabs have done better than almost anyone expected. But now, as Iraqi forces round up Westerners at gunpoint, it is clear that had Mr Bush not assumed the responsibility for opposing Saddam, all the governments of the Gulf would be in jeopardy.

Apparently the world needs a policeman after all - which means we all need better regional security arrangements for the Gulf and elsewhere. For now, the US is stuck with leadership in the Gulf conflict. Though I do not believe the US has a distinctive interest in the Gulf, we are now deeply committed. This commitment gives us an irreducible national interest in the outcome.

Eliot's blue period

Devotees of T.S. Eliot are in for a shock when a new anthology of verse appears in bookshops in October. *The Faber Book of Blue Verse* includes three previously unpublished poems by the author of *Prufrock* and *The Waste Land*, the smuttness of which would have any class of 13-year-olds sniggering fit to bust.

A few pages after the pornographic classic "Eskimo Nell", beloved of rugby players everywhere, the book prints Eliot's "Columbiad: Two Stanza's", the first two lines of which give the flavour: "The ladies of King Bolo's Court / Were called 'The Broadway Benders'". It is followed by two further short pieces: "Twins Christmas on the Spanish Main" and "There was a young girl of Siberia / Who had such a tempting posterior".

Eliot's biographer, Peter Ackroyd, says the blue poems are part of an unnamed seam of the master's oeuvre. "He did write a lot of dirty verse and rude limericks. Some of the rude verse appears in letters he wrote to Bonamy Dobrée, professor of English at Leeds," says Ackroyd who read the correspondence, now at the Brotherton Collection in Leeds, while researching his book.

The Poetry Society's Andrew Lindesay, a long-time admirer of Eliot, believes he may have written the naughty verse when he was deeply depressed. "When he wrote some of *The Waste Land* he was not in a healthy mental state. He did have fantasies but I do not

think these poems will alter his standing as the major poet of the century. They may shock some of those who seek to sanctify him. I do not think he would have approved their publication."

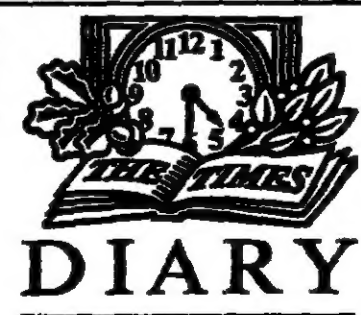


Tebbit-power

Despite giving up the Tory chairmanship three years ago, Norman Tebbit clearly still scares the life out of Conservative Central Office. He has just won a bitter campaign to force an arch Tory to stand down in a highly marginal seat.

So disgusted was Tebbit with the selection of Phil Pedley, a former chairman of the National Young Conservatives, to fight Carlisle at the next general election, he told Tory officials that not only would he visit the town to campaign against Pedley, he was prepared to resign the Tory whip over the matter. Tebbit's bluster did the trick and Pedley, to the relief of national officials but the annoyance of local Tories, has decided to stand down.

Tebbit refuses to discuss his



threat, contained in a letter to Sir Peter Lane, chairman of the executive committee of the National Union of Conservative Associations, but it clearly sent shockwaves through the party hierarchy, causing Central Office to suggest discreetly to the candidate that it might be in the interests of the party for him to go. And Pedley's crime? He helped the BBC make the 1984 *Panorama* programme, *Maggie's Militant Tendency*, which wrongly accused Tory MPs of having links with extreme right-wing groups.

Tested and true

Another myth bites the dust. Fred Trueman, the epitome of the hard-drinking, truculent, blunt-speaking fast bowler, was, it seems, nothing of the sort. Taking a day off from commentating on the final Test at the Oval yesterday to promote his new book, *Cricketer Masterpieces*, he insisted that he has never been drunk in his life, and that during his career he was frequently tucked up in bed by half past nine.

So how did he acquire the hell-raiser's reputation that twice saw him arraigned by the cricket authorities for incidents in

matches in which he was not even playing? In a game against Surrey at the Oval early in his career, Trueman climbed on the treatment table one morning to be told gruffly by a club official that someone who stayed out until 4.30am did not deserve help to get fit for the day's cricket. But, protested Trueman, he had been to the cinema with three other players and had been back at the hotel and asleep by 11.30pm. The official refused to accept his word and reported the affair to Yorkshire captain, Norman Yardley.

When all three players corroborated Trueman's story, Yardley went back to the official, who insisted he knew Trueman had been out boozing because he had sat up until 4am with the night porter waiting for his return. Trueman escaped a disciplinary charge only when Yardley realised what had happened. Fiery Fred had been staying in a different hotel.

Husain by a head

As King Husain attempts to balance his Arab loyalties with his long-standing friendship with the West, Baghdad will not be too impressed with how the king has responded to a request to help raise funds at a London charity auction. First he nominated the RAF Benevolent Fund as his chosen charity and then sent them his favourite signed personal snapshot depicting the desert king wearing... an American baseball cap. There seems little doubt that when King Husain visits Iraq on his peace mission shortly, the headgear will have been changed for something more traditionally - and diplomatically - Arabic.

Spoiling the party

Just when Neil Kinnock thought he had persuaded the nation that all is sweetness and light in the Labour party, a lawsuit has been launched by one of its MPs, George Galloway, against the party's only weekly newspaper, *Tribune*. The action concerns a spoof advertisement that he alleges made fun of him for being blackballed by the Groucho Club. Although the ad did not name him, the writ insists that the description "balding and has been nicknamed 'gorgeous'" identifies Galloway beyond reasonable doubt.

"The last Labour MP to sue was John Silkin in the early Eighties," says Phil Kelly, editor of the cash-starved paper. "We launched an appeal and made a profit out of the action." But perhaps he should remember the law of diminishing returns. When he came back from holiday this week he had not one but two solicitors' letters waiting on his desk. The second is not from a Labour MP, but is perhaps the next best thing: a complaint from the editor of the *Daily Mirror*, just about the only newspaper in Britain apart from *Tribune* that consistently supports the Labour party.

Marxism Today has long since abandoned the socialist certainties of *Tribune*. Next month's issue is a case in point. Not only does the cover look like Hells, with a flattering colour portrait of the Prince of Wales, the issue includes an interview with Tory defence minister Alan Clark, an article by Tory MP Teresa Gorman, and another by Tory peer Baroness Flather. Scarcely a socialist, let alone a Marxist in sight.



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EXTENDING SOLIDARITY

Yesterday President Saddam Hussein paraded child hostages in front of his television cameras, stroking their heads and arms, solemnly expressing his concern for their interrupted education. Today, the cynical charm offensive over Iraq's iron fist will again be on display, enforcing its illegal ultimatum to close foreign embassies in Kuwait by midnight.

The unwitting infant propaganda stars must now be presumed to be back in their sequestered quarters. Diplomats from Nato countries, the Soviet Union and a dozen other nations may soon join them in the "human shield". Their governments risk a series of embassy sieges by following what is legally and politically the only proper course.

Compliance with the closure demand would indirectly have recognised Iraq's sovereignty over Kuwait, contravening the UN Security Council's resolution declaring Saddam's annexation of the emirate "null and void". Iraq cannot carry out its threat without breaching the Vienna conventions on diplomatic relations and, should troops abduct them, the Geneva convention on the treatment of civilians in time of war. The European Community has formally stated that every Iraqi officer will be held individually responsible for their treatment.

The impressive solidarity shown on this front now needs to be applied to the two areas in which Saddam is beginning to score. The first is the rise in oil prices to more than \$30 a barrel. The second is the economic peril in which Iraq's aggression has placed not only "front line" Egypt and Turkey but other countries, such as India and the Philippines, which are heavily dependent on Iraqi oil and remittances from Gulf workers.

Oil prices are already helping to destabilise financial markets. If maintained, they could inflict grave damage on the world's weaker economies — ranging from those, such as the United States, already on the verge of recession, to the heavily indebted oil-importing countries of Africa and Latin America.

During earlier oil shocks it was not the shortage of oil which primarily drove up prices but hoarding, based on fears that future supplies will be interrupted, and aggressive buying based on expectations that prices would be still higher tomorrow. This cycle can be broken. There is as yet no oil crisis; with modest coordinated action by leading oil consuming and producing governments, there need be none.

Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are providing leadership the West should acknowledge and

support. They want to increase production to stabilise markets and would prefer to do so with Opec's blessing, which they will seek at informal Opec consultations in Vienna on Sunday. Their position is almost impossible so long as the West, sitting on stockpiles at an eight-year high, fails to acknowledge the joint responsibility of consumers. Opec members ask why they should increase production when the West is not drawing down reserves.

On August 9, the OECD's International Energy Agency (IEA) requested western oil companies to take advantage of their "generally excellent stock levels". The plea has fallen on deaf ears — as well it might, given that IEA policy is to view cooperation between oil companies as a breach of competition rules. The IEA should now bring forward the date of its next meeting, not scheduled until August 31, to consider token releases of strategic reserves.

The arguments against such a step have been that the IEA would normally respond only to physical shortages, and that to act when oil is available would sow panic in the markets instead of restoring calm. Leaving prices to the market is an admirable principle, provided the markets are functioning effectively. There is no need to activate the IEA's emergency procedure for moving stocks to countries whose reserves are low. But the imperative of reducing uncertainty should override objections to releasing government stocks to ease prices downward.

Broader action is needed to counter the risks of global recession and to help especially hard-hit developing and East European countries. West Germany has every interest in stabilising oil prices, contributing to emergency aid and supporting special debt rescheduling: recession would add greatly to the bill for East German reconstruction. Japan's surpluses could be a formidable weapon in the campaign to bring Saddam to heel, but Tokyo has dithered.

West Germany and Japan would do more good by bringing their financial strength to bear than by agonising over the constraints which their constitutions place against military assistance to the alliance ranged against Iraq. The European Commission is drawing up plans to avoid recession and aid Eastern Europe and Middle Eastern countries. A meeting of the finance ministers of the seven leading industrialised countries, the G7, proposed by M Jacques Delors, could provide strategic guidance and impart needed urgency. It should now be convened.

GOING WITH THE WIND

Events in the Middle East underline the unreliability of oil; coal damages the atmosphere. And nuclear power, once the dream solution, is under a shadow. But Britain is the best placed country in Europe to exploit such energy sources as the wind and the waves. Whether they will ever make a major contribution to the economy is an open question. Few of those connected with Britain's fledgling wind-power industry will have greeted yesterday's speech by the new energy minister, Colin Moynihan, at Carmarthen Bay with any sense of optimism.

The government's first attempts to encourage wind energy as part of the electricity industry privatisation package have achieved little. Groups keen to exploit Britain's enviable geography and climate had hoped the technology was to be given a proper chance to show its paces when the energy department called for proposals last year. Almost 12 months on, that bright future is hardly nearer. Of the scores of projects submitted, only two commercial wind farms are likely to proceed. Yesterday Mr Moynihan was blaming the industry — and the industry was blaming him — for this less than racing start.

The most favourable estimates suggest the renewable energy sector could produce as much as 20 per cent of Britain's total needs. To encourage experiment and enterprise, the government intends to impose a small levy on electricity users, to subsidise the development of these renewable sources.

The Non Fossil Fuel Obligation (NFFO) levy is intended to help to meet the heavy initial costs of buying and building wind turbines by paying a premium price for the electricity they generate, over twice the current price of power from more conventional

sources like oil and coal. The interested groups range from independent affiliations of enthusiasts to land owners and big engineering firms. They initially coaxed their schemes on the understanding that the levy was to last 15 to 20 years, as was at first proposed. But the levy's life has been limited to eight years, in the light of EC objections, throwing the economics of these projects into confusion. The EC objected not to the subsidising of wind power, but to the inclusion in the levy scheme of nuclear power, part of the fallout of the aborted effort to privatise the nuclear power industry.

What the wind entrepreneurs were looking for from Mr Moynihan yesterday was some sign that he realises the difficulties this has caused, for instance by indicating his willingness to enhance the premium from six pence per kilowatt to nine or ten in compensation for its shorter duration. All he had to offer was a rethink, and some announcement next year. This false start may be nobody's fault, but is not very promising.

All this points to some scepticism towards wind and wave power in the energy department and uncertainty how to proceed administratively — not a combination likely to generate much enthusiasm. The conditions and regulations that have been imposed on future wind power projects before they can be approved have not helped either. Many of those originally willing to take part have concluded that the risk of burnt fingers is too high, the frustration of dealing with the department too much. But renewable energy is an exciting prospect Britain should pursue. The search for the right alliance between government and industry needs a touch of urgency and imagination.

NOT QUITE CRICKET

Those who might have forgotten that cricket Tests in this country are sponsored by Cornhill Insurance were compulsorily reminded yesterday. When England joined battle with India at the Oval in their third and final encounter of the season, the company's name was brightly emblazoned on the grass. For those watching the titanic duel on television, the logo will be inescapable.

As an experiment it is not entirely new. Last month, in a NatWest Trophy match at Taunton, the sponsor's slogan was painted on the outfield. But this breakthrough on to the sacred turf of a Test match prompts difficult questions about the future of sports sponsorship.

Firms that pour marketing money into sport are looking for some return on their investment. However enthusiastic they may be about the game, philanthropy is not their primary motive. The partnership between cricket and its sponsors is essentially a commercial one. To deny sponsors the rewards they are seeking is to undermine the basis of the deal.

There exists, none the less, a blurred dividing line between what is widely regarded as permissible and what might seriously impinge on the sport itself. So far cricket in Britain has remained on the right side of the line and the resulting partnerships have all been happy. Most county cricketers now wear advertising logos on their shirts — but so discreetly that they hardly obtrude.

The game has had some time to adjust to these new relationships. The first sponsored British competition, the Gillette Cup (now the

NatWest Trophy) started as long ago as 1963. Gillette pulled out because its plan was too successful: people were starting to forget that it also made razor blades. By now "the Referee Assurance", "the Benson and Hedges" and indeed "the Cornhill Tests" trip as lightly off the tongues of the commentators as "the gasworks" at the Oval or "the tavern" at Lords. Cornhill has hugely benefited, climbing into the top echelon of insurance groups with the help of the prestigious publicity.

But cricket is in danger of selling its own soul. The character of the game has changed significantly since Kerry Packer's vulgar interventions in the 1970s. The growing influence of the one-day game and the aggression shown by players on the field have arguably sprung from the new commercialism. Cricket has lost as well as gained from the experience.

The idea of painting logos on cricket grounds would seem to have come from the TCCB itself. The TCCB calculates that in time the public will grow used to them. And one of the board's functions is to help ensure the game's financial future by exploiting its commercial opportunities. A warning finger should be raised, however, before the TCCB oversteps that thin and invisible line, the public's threshold of tolerance. If the sport grows much more flagrantly commercial it might seriously offend the sensibilities of its followers. Not only would this harm the national summer game: it would begin to work against the sponsors' interests too.

Doubts and dangers in the Gulf

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, Instead of sanctimoniously and unnecessarily proclaiming their preference for peace rather than war, Lord Richard and Lady Hart (August 22) would do better to examine their own responsibility for the present troubles.

Each was a supporter of the British governments of the 1960s whose policies were the removal of the British presence from the Gulf, a decision linked with today's threat to our oil and to those of the 1970s.

The reason for ignoring the danger to British interests in the Gulf was the fanatical desire, promoted by the Foreign Office, to join the European Economic Community and to distance the UK from her traditional interests. I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant, ROY D. ROEBUCK, 12 Brookside Street, N1, August 22.

From Mr Peter V. Facey

Sir, History teaches that you cannot dispose of a sizeable land power at arms' length by blockade and bombing. You have to face up to him on the ground. The West now has frigates coming out of its ears in the Middle East, but how many armoured divisions have we got?

Yours faithfully, P. V. FACEY, 134 Sandhurst Lane, Ashford, Kent, August 21.

From Mr M. A. A. Mohammed

Sir, As an Iraqi living in the United Kingdom for the last 10 years, I wholeheartedly denounce Saddam Hussein's unwarranted action against Kuwait. I am equally sickened by the hypocrisy of the West's response.

Saddam Hussein has been abusing the rights of his people for almost 20 years. The activities of his secret police are well documented: these range from personal accounts of systematic torture to reports of mass genocide. Of these gross abuses of human rights, the West has not been ignorant, but it chose to say and do nothing.

Throughout the eight-year conflict with Iran, Saddam was supported by the West, as well as other Gulf nations. His stand against the Iranian fanatics was vital to Western economic interests in the area. His war

V & A restrictions

From Professor Emeritus Dennis Welland

Sir, Your report (August 18) of a probable £2.3 million deficit at the Victoria and Albert Museum may elicit from our politicians yet again the cliché that "problems cannot be solved by throwing money at them"; but neither can they be solved by being underestimated and underfunded.

On Tuesday last I took my visiting expatriate son, his American wife and my two grand-children to the V & A. We wanted the children in particular to see five collections: dress, arms and armour, Britain, musical instruments, and jewellery. Of the five, only the first two were fully accessible to the public that morning.

Of the 18 rooms devoted to Britain since 1500, only the three relating to Britain since 1900 were open, yet this is the height of the tourist season. My family left

Oxford slang

From Mr E. H. Cooke

Yarborough, FENG

Sir, Philip Howard's article, "Mystery of Oxford slang" (August 17), reminds me that my father, who was up at Oxford in the 1890s, told me that a wastepaper basket was then known as a wagger paper bagger.

In 1896 he rowed for Magdalen in Torpids — known of course as Toppers. Yours faithfully, E. H. COOKE-YARBOROUGH, As from: Lincoln Lodge, Longworth, Nr Abingdon, Oxfordshire, August 17.

From Squadron Leader D. L. Bird, RAF (ret)

Sir, When I was serving at RAF Felixstowe in 1950, my favourite example of slang was a fighter controller's description of bad weather at the nearby base at RAF Wattisham: "It's clampers at Tishers."

Yours sincerely, DENNIS L. BIRD, 37 The Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, August 17.

In-flight illness

From Dr John C. Urquhart

Sir, Dr Chapman (August 22) raises an interesting point. A defibrillator in contemporary practice will record the heart rhythm of a patient and advise on whether a shock is required or not, and can therefore be used by personnel equipped with minimal training and a certain amount of common sense.

The arguments for carriage of automated defibrillators on airliners are therefore evident. There is however a reluctance on the part of airlines to carry such equipment, based on two points. First, it is said that no life has yet been saved as a result of defibrillation carried out on board. Even if this remains true, which I doubt, it does so simply because the equipment is not available, rather than anything to

do with the condition.

Secondly, anxieties are expressed about damage to the aircraft's electronics; modern avionics are designed to withstand the impact of lightning, the energy of which is many thousands of times greater than the 300 joules employed in defibrillation.

Yours faithfully, JOHN C. URQUHART, Cega Air Ambulance Ltd, Goodwood Airfield, Chichester, Sussex.

From Mrs Wendy Vickers-James

Sir, The facts related to the dangers of being taken ill on board flights are not made available to the public so that they may take adequate safety measures themselves to at least avoid problems.

I travelled on an eight-hour flight over Christmas and six days later suffered severe leg pain and was finally admitted to hospital

machine was equipped with the most sophisticated weaponry; and it is hard to imagine that he received no outside assistance in developing Iraq's vast chemical capability.

When at the war's end Saddam ordered the use of chemical weapons against the defenceless Kurdish people of Halabja, there was but a token outcry and a light slap on the wrists for Saddam. Surely it was then that economic sanctions were due.

Yours faithfully, M. A. A. MOHAMMED, 27 Lower Broomgrove Road, Hastings, East Sussex, August 22.

From Mr Roy Clare

Sir, The people down the street may snore and have other lousy habits, their offspring may be prone to gambling, boozing and whoring. We may not much like the family, but we and nearly all our fellow residents have agreed to support the neighbourhood watch committee in deterring local hoodlums from looting their property.

While engaged on this onerous communal vigil, what possible merit can there be in kicking over their dubs and stewing the contents about, using language both spiteful and immoderate?

Come on, Mr Levin ("To lie, to creep, perchance to snore, ay, there's the rub", August 23) zip lip until our forces return, their task accomplished with honour. Yours faithfully, ROY CLARE, 2 Edington Close, Bishops Waltham, Hampshire, August 23.

From Dr John Slome

Sir, Have Middle East watchers noticed the deafening silence concerning self-determination for the citizens of Kuwait?

Yours faithfully, J. SLOME, The Clinic, 146 Walm Lane, NW2, August 22.

From Mrs Aline Templeton

Sir, Has Mr Tony Benn (August 20) written to the Good Fairy as well, to ask her to wave her magic wand?

Yours faithfully, ALINE TEMPLETON, The White House, Weston Lane, Oswestry, Shropshire, August 21.

disappointed and utterly unconvinced by my attempted defence of the policy of inviting payment for admission to the museum.

Their indignation at the failure to display any warning at the entrance that so much was closed (because, we were told, of staff shortages) was shared by countless other tourists whose enquiries and complaints were met by the staff at the information desk with a patience and courtesy that we could only admire.

Whether that is enough to encourage the return of those tourists on which our economy so much depends is a question for serious consideration in governmental and other quarters.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS WELLAND, The White Cottage, 188, Longhurst Lane, Mellor, Stockport, Cheshire, August 19.

Monetary union

From Mr Chris Butler, MP for

Warrington South (Conservative)

Sir, In 1975 we voted as a nation in a referendum to stay in the Common Market. Harold Wilson, the then Prime Minister had, after all, reassured us in the government-issued leaflet delivered to every household:

There was a threat to employment in Britain from the movement in the Common Market towards an Economic and Monetary Union. This could have forced us to accept fixed exchange rates for the pound, restricting industrial growth and so putting jobs at risk. This threat has been removed.

This "threat" has now returned in the form of pressure from Delors et al. towards a single European currency. I wonder if the British public will be allowed another referendum on economic and monetary union, the "fixed exchange rates" of the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) before the drift towards it becomes unstoppable, despite the clear governmental promise we were given in 1975, and on which at least in part we based our choice of vote.

Yours faithfully, CHRIS BUTLER, House of Commons.

do with the condition. Secondly, anxieties are expressed about damage to the aircraft's electronics; modern avionics are designed to withstand the impact of lightning, the energy of which is many thousands of times greater than the 300 joules employed in defibrillation.

Yours faithfully, JOHN C. URQUHART, Cega Air Ambulance Ltd, Goodwood Airfield, Chichester, Sussex.

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Evaluating investment in transport

From the Director of the British Road Federation

Sir, Stephen Joseph's letter on rail investment (August 13) contained some interesting proposals but, in common with so many others, he fails to understand the government (this and its predecessors) approach to road and rail investment. As it happens this was admirably and succinctly put in the Commons transport committee report published only last week.

The methods used to evaluate public investment in different types of transport schemes are designed, so far as possible, to prevent bias towards one mode or another. Road and rail schemes are subject to the same level of test discount rate and external benefits are included where they cannot be captured through the price mechanism.

The main difference is the absence of any system of pricing at the point of use for road traffic, although there are, of course, similarities between the fixed level of annual road tax and a railway season ticket which gives unlimited travel for its duration.

The Government acknowledges that, although road users are not charged directly for a new road which brings them benefits, the overall level of taxation on road use means that users meet the cost of building, maintaining and administering the road system three or four times over.

By contrast the average public transport user pays a price which

covers little more than the cost of providing the service, and in many cases, such as on Network SouthEast and the London Underground, public subsidy is necessary to meet operating costs.

Mr Joseph would probably argue that road users should be charged over and above the basic cost of road use to meet external costs and that external benefits resulting from the use of public transport justify additional charges on road users and further subsidies for public transport.

Given that the extra charge on road users now runs to about £14 billion per annum, a sum which would meet three-quarters of the annual running cost of the National Health Service, the charge for any external disbenefits from road users are adequate.

On the other hand mechanisms to subsidise public transport, where for instance improvement can be shown to persuade car users to switch to train use or social or economic benefits can be shown, already exist. The reality is however that despite the views expressed by Mr Joseph there are only a very limited number of cases in which investment in roads can be seen as a direct substitute for improvement in public transport and vice versa.

Yours faithfully, PETER WITT, Director, British Road Federation Ltd, Pillar House, 194-202 Old Kent Road, SE1, August 17.

aged open space, easier access to the countryside and more community facilities.

Even with lower densities, authoritative estimates were that 87.5 per cent of all land would still be countryside by the year 2000: even in the South-east it would be 83 per cent. Beyond that date forecasts of household formation were obviously imprecise but it seemed that we could achieve the objective of a decent home for everyone while leaving over 80 per cent of the countryside unbuilt on.

Currently comments on the group's report are being received from local authority associations and other interested bodies. Support is emerging for our view that concern for the environment involves concern for those who do not have a good environment, as well as for those who do, and that with the right policies we can have the houses we need and a "green and pleasant" land.

Yours sincerely, A. W. TAIT (Chairman), New Homes Environmental Group, 18 Seymour Place, W1.

Mimicking the mind

From Mr Christopher Bray

Sir, Many people, myself included, would take issue with your description of backgammon as a gambling game (leading article, August 16). Although chance plays a part over the short term, over the long term the best player will always win. This does not conform to the definition of gambling.

With regard to the playing of games by artificial intelligence there is a significant difference between chess and backgammon. Each chess position can be analysed with very little regard for the technical ability of one's opponent. Thus, the best theoretical play and the best practical play are nearly always the same in any given position.

In high-level backgammon, the ability to understand and adapt to the strengths and weaknesses of one's opponent is critical to success. This is particularly true of doubling cube decisions, the most complex and least understood area of backgammon.

Until artificial intelligences can learn to incorporate the "opponent factor" into their decision-making processes backgammon will remain relatively safe from total solution. It may even confound the programmers of AI for longer than the apparently more complex game of chess.

Yours truly, CHRISTOPHER BRAY, 18 Glendower Road, East Sheen, SW14, August 16.

Cheap church repairs

From the Archdeacon of Exeter

Sir, The warning by Mr Ian Jardin of English Heritage about the dangers of repairing church buildings on the cheap (report, August 18) has hardly appeared at the most propitious moment.

Last week all archdeacons in the Church of England received a letter stating that the allocations of grant aid by English Heritage for this year have been exhausted, and no further applications by churches for financial assistance can be entertained this year.

It therefore needs to be clearly recognised by the amenity societies and English Heritage that whilst Mr Jardin's advice that church repairs should be carried out, using the best methods and materials, represents a very desirable ideal, it is of little comfort to incumbents, churchwardens, and councils of the majority of the Church of England's parishes.

They heroically seek to raise the funds to keep their ancient buildings in good repair, without the prospect of any assistance from English Heritage or any other body outside the parish itself. They can only do what their means permit.

Yours sincerely, JOHN RICHARDS, 12 The Close, Exeter, Devon, August 20.

Bunnies at law

From Miss Jane Thurston-Hoskins

Sir, It is Mrs Rabbit who should pursue a claim against Mr McGregor for the murder and subsequent consumption of her husband (letters, August 14, 22, 23).

Peter's behaviour is simply a reaction to this terrible trauma and he should be referred to a suitable counsellor.

Yours faithfully, JANE THURSTON-HOSKINS, 116 St Stephen's Avenue, W12.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

SOCIAL NEWS

The Prince of Wales is to have an operation on his right arm. The Queen's Press Secretary announced yesterday.

It is therefore with great regret that the official visit to Brazil in October by the

Prince and Princess of Wales has been postponed. The announcement continued. All the Prince's engagements for the immediate future will have to be either postponed or cancelled.

Today's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, as President of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts, will visit the Great Britain Film Rally at Grampian Television, Queen's Cross, Aberdeen, at 6.00.

Birthdays today

Lord Ashby, 86; Mr Paul Burrell, writer and broadcaster, 53; Vice-Admiral Sir Stephen Birt, 68; Mr Alan Brook, former chairman, Eitel Group, 59; Sir Giles Bullard, diplomat, 64; Mr Charles Causley, poet, 73; Mr Carlo Curley, organiser, 38; Sir James Duncan, chairman, Transport Development Group, 63; Sir Michael Franklin, civil servant, 63; Mr Stephen Fry, actor, writer and comedian, 33; the Earl of Harrington, 68; Lieutenant-Colonel Sir John Johnston, former Comptroller, Lord Chamberlain's Office, 68; Commander Sir Clive Lechnis, former director, GCHQ, 88; the Right Rev Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton, 58; Brigadier F.E. Stafford, former colonial officer, 95; Sir Graham Swainwick, former High Court judge, 84; Mr Sam Torrance, golfer, 37.

Service dinner

Brigadier G.K. Ramsey was the principal guest at the annual dinner given by Officers of Berkshire Army Cadet Force yesterday at Nesscliffe Camp, Shrewsbury. Captain Alisdair Corbett presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.R. Blackie and Miss C.M. Gayler. The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of Mr and Mrs M.J. Blackie, of North Nibley, Gloucestershire, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs D.R. Gayler, of Kempford, Gloucestershire.

Mr D.J. Carr and Miss G.J. Posner. The forthcoming marriage is announced between David John, son of Harry and Phyllis Carr, and Gabrielle Jan, daughter of Sidney and Ann Posner.

Mr D.P. Coffey and Miss S.C. Monney. The engagement is announced between David, son of Dr and Mrs Patrick Coffey, of Bampton, Gloucestershire, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Simon Monney, of Fildown, Sussex.

Mr J.M. Grimes and Miss E.R.D. Cheshire. The engagement is announced between John, son of the late Mr James Grimes and of Mrs Aveline Grimes, of Johannesburg, South Africa, and Gail, daughter of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire and Lady Ryder, of Cavendish, Suffolk.

Mr J. Hales and Miss S.M. Knox-Johnston. The engagement is announced between Julian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Hales, of Elmton, Essex, and Sara, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Knox-Johnston, of Putney, London.

Mr S. Lewis-Dale and Miss E.C. Young. The engagement is announced between Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Douglas Lewis-Dale, of Winchester, Cheshire, and Emma, only daughter of the late Mr Simon Young and of Mrs Diana Young, of Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Mr J.H.C. Lord and Miss L.D.S. Schumann. The engagement is announced between Justin, second son of His Honour Judge Lord and Mrs John Lord, of Greenfield, Oldham, and Laura, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Schumann, of Croton-on-Hudson, New York, USA.

Mr R.M. Mansfield and Miss H.M. Tarr. The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Dr and Mrs G.C. Mansfield, of Torquay, Devon, and Helen, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.E. Tarr, of Orpington, Kent.

Mr P.J. Redden and Miss C.F. Cordy-Simpson. The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of Mr Kevin Redden, of Napier, New Zealand, and Mrs Jane Cordy-Simpson, CBE, MC, and Mrs David Cory, of Blaenau, Peterston-super-Ely, Cardiff.

Council for Licensed Conveyancers

The following have successfully passed the Council for Licensed Conveyancers examination, Part 1:

Legal Environment
Baird R; Baruch R; Behrouzi P; Bland L; Brophy M; Bullard K; Burnen V; Burton R; Carter D; Clairmonte J; Collins D; Cugley C; Deamalea K; Down W; Draper S; Eay A; Farr L; Gibbins R; Griffin E; Hadley I; Halpin J; Hartley B; Hefferlan G; Hunt L; Laffan J; Mairis S; Matharu R; Metcalfe M; Middleton J; Morrison M; O'Connor L; Palmer J; Phillips B; Procter S; Reeves V; Reynolds A; Ring C; Roberts A; Rodger M; Savers E; Scollan J; Sime A; Stanford C; Walters H; Wilkinson P; Wood K.

Introduction to Property Law
Bland L; Bullard K; Carter D; Clairmonte J; Cugley C; Khalid W; Draper S; Gibbins R; Hadley I; Halpin J; Hartley B; Hefferlan G; Hunt L; Laffan J; Mairis S; Matharu R; Metcalfe M; Middleton J; Morrison M; O'Connor L; Palmer J; Phillips B; Procter S; Reeves V; Reynolds A; Ring C; Roberts A; Rodger M; Savers E; Scollan J; Sime A; Stanford C; Walters H; Wilkinson P; Wood K.

The Individual in Dispute
Baird R; Baruch R; Behrouzi P; Bland L; Brophy M; Bullard K; Burnen V; Burton R; Carter D; Clairmonte J; Collins D; Cugley C; Deamalea K; Down W; Draper S; Eay A; Farr L; Gibbins R; Griffin E; Hadley I; Halpin J; Hartley B; Hefferlan G; Hunt L; Laffan J; Mairis S; Matharu R; Metcalfe M; Middleton J; Morrison M; O'Connor L; Palmer J; Phillips B; Procter S; Reeves V; Reynolds A; Ring C; Roberts A; Rodger M; Savers E; Scollan J; Sime A; Stanford C; Walters H; Wilkinson P; Wood K.

OBITUARIES

COLONEL ELSPETH HOBKIRK

Colonel Elspeth Isabel Weatherley Hobkirk, CBE, WRAC retired, former prison governor, died on August 21 aged 87. She was born on May 17, 1903.

ELSPETH Hobkirk was born into a life of service. Her father was Brigadier-General Clarence Hobkirk, CMG, DSO, of Cleddon Hall, Trellech, Monmouthshire, where she spent her formative years.

Her own life was distinguished by an immense capacity for service which demanded firm self-discipline and often loneliness, yet she retained a sophisticated wit and perception. Underneath she was diffident and intuitive.

She became deputy director of the WRAC at the War Office in 1949; yet after her capacity for social service had been sharpened by her role as prison governor, she would quietly go by herself to visit the poor of Edinburgh with blankets and food. She could relate to all classes, while remaining herself, yet had the capacity to draw people out without being patronising.

This is, of course, the stuff of real leadership, however disciplined the role she had to play. The girl who went to the London School of Art also trained pre-war to become a mechanic and how to drive army trucks. She joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry and became a JP; thus the twin courses of her life were already established. She enrolled in the ATS in 1939 and served throughout the war, subsequently becoming deputy director at the War Office from 1947-9. Her last service posts were deputy director WRAC Eastern Command 1950-2 and vice-president of the Regular Commissions Board from 1950-2. She retired in 1952, but became the same year head warden of

solidarity movement when it was seeking advice on future privatisation schemes. At home, his enthusiasm was such that if a member of the Conservative government happened to be present at one of his speaking engagements Brennan would admonish him from the platform for not doing enough. If he was addressing an audience of managers he would attack them for contemplating a management buy-out without making provision for shares for their workers.

In 1984 he founded New Bridge Street Consultants, in partnership with a law firm. This consultancy specialised

in remuneration arrangements for those behind Employee Share Ownership Plans (ESOPs) and a founder member of the ESOP Centre set up in 1988.

Some of Brennan's aims were realised by the enactment of the Finance Acts of 1989 and 1990 when the government recognised ESOPs. Yet immediately afterwards he wrote off to the government department concerned to urge doing more.

Brennan's espousal of the employee share ownership movement came by a somewhat roundabout route. Born in Liverpool, he had joined a

Roman Catholic religious order of teaching monks at an early age. But after two years' experience of teaching, he decided to leave the order and go and study at Cambridge University where he later took a degree in natural sciences.

In 1969 he joined the Diplomatic Service, attaining the rank of a first secretary and serving in Moscow. Deciding, however, that he did not wish to see his family travel the world, Brennan returned to this country and re-trained with a firm of consulting actuaries before taking up share scheme consultancy.

He is survived by his wife, one son and two daughters.



Bristol Royal Hospital. Both there and as prison governor, which she next became, she had to work up to 18 hours a day.

Those were the days when prison life was more rigidly hierarchical than now and the prison service, particularly on the male side, benefited, like the police, from having a pool of ex-service personnel able to make a disciplined system work. So in one sense it was not extraordinary that she should switch to the prison service. While relying on, and encouraging her NCOs, she took pride in maintaining access to individual prisoners and supporting them as individuals.

She was in 1954 appointed as governor of the prison at Duke Street, Glasgow, but the female prisoners there were almost immediately moved to Greenock where she took over the governorship of the com-

LAURIE BRENNAN

Laurie Brennan, campaigner for employee share ownership, died aged 44 on August 19. He was born on October 12, 1945.

THE early death of Laurie Brennan robs the movement for wider employee share ownership of one of its most dedicated advocates. Tens of thousands of workers now own shares in their companies as a result of Brennan's work.

His "no-nonsense" approach to the concept of employees owning shares in their company earned him a reputation as a campaigner. His expertise was called upon last year by the Polish government, which emerged from the

Religion

Keston's triumph is almost its undoing

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

KESTON College in Kent is celebrating an ironic sort of triumph. All the good things which happened in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the last 12 months are threatening it with redundancy or even bankruptcy unless it can find a new role, possibly within a university department.

Keston's international fame as the leading centre in the West for monitoring religious opposition to communism, has never been higher. Through the dark days of religious repression often the only news reaching the West of the fate of the victims came from Keston's exhaustive monitoring and the analysis of every conceivable clue: radio broadcasts, private correspondence, samizdat publications, visitors entering and leaving eastern Europe. Many such victims credit Keston with helping to ease their conditions or gain their release.

The centre kept up-to-date lists of prisoners of conscience whose "offence" had a religious element, and it co-ordinated international efforts to bring them relief. It monitored the denial of human rights in each country concerned, and the performance of each "ministry for religious affairs" in the various Soviet-bloc regimes. A unique archive of material has been collected in the

process. But now only Albania — and even that is changing — persecutes religion as an act of state policy. Keston College is a non-denominational centre supported by all the major Christian churches. It is based in an old school house in Keston, Kent, but may have to move. It has cut its staff by nearly one third and has experienced a 20 per cent fall in financial support. Many former supporters believe the battle for religious liberty in eastern Europe has been won.

Canon Michael Bourdeaux, founder and director, said the future of the college will be decided at a meeting next month. He said he had been approached by a number of universities offering to take the college on board. He believed the changes still left a "major role" for Keston College, such as in monitoring the burgeoning religious propaganda.

"The role of studying the life of the church in these societies is still important," said Canon Bourdeaux. Keston's journal *Religion in Communist Lands* will continue although the name will be changed.

Canon Bourdeaux said a spiritual revival had been taking place for at least 20 years in eastern Europe. "What is new is the public attitude to religion, the fact that there are new laws which permit teaching of religion. There are new theological seminaries and clergy are going

into schools. "It is wrong to credit Gorbachev with the religious revival. It was going on long before. But he made it possible for that revival to become a public and accepted part of Soviet society."

In a new book *Gorbachev, Glasnost & The Gospel*, to be published next month, Canon Bourdeaux recounts how the Soviet Union attempted to eradicate all concept of God from society but failed, putting the process into reverse in 1988. The book describes a "limitless hunger for the spiritual" which is a fact of life for millions but which is unfocused and undirected.

"Uncontrolled access to the media of proponents of any and every philosophy and paranormal experimentation holds out its own peculiar set of dangers which will need to be tackled in some concerted way," he writes in the book.

Canon Bourdeaux has called a meeting of interested parties for September 20 when the future of the work will be discussed and decided on. "In general, we are discussing our relationship with major universities," he said. "There is a strong school of thought which puts forward the proposition that Keston College should no longer be an isolated research centre in the countryside, but it should be integrated into a university."

Gorbachev, Glasnost & The Gospel (Published September 6, Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95 hardback, £8.99 pb).

LEW DeWITT

Lew C. DeWitt, American singer and songwriter, died aged 52 on August 15. He was born on March 8, 1938.

RAISED in Roanoke County, Virginia, Lew DeWitt was a founder member of the American country music vocal group The Statler Brothers until his retirement in 1982 on medical grounds.

DeWitt and fellow group members Phil Balsley and brothers Don and Harold Reid first performed together in 1955 as the Four Star Gospel Quartet (subsequently The Kingsmen) but later transferred to a rather more secular style of music under the name The Statler Brothers.

In 1963 the group auditioned for famed country star Johnny Cash who hired them as an integral part of his roadshow. They remained with him for the next seven years. Cash's influence gained the group a recording contract with Columbia Records and DeWitt's composition "Flowers On The Wall" became a worldwide best-seller for the group in 1965, receiving two Grammy awards for best song and best pop record. It remained one of their biggest successes, with record sales topping the one million mark, and was also recorded by a number of other groups.

In 1970 the Statler Brothers began their long (and continuing) association with Mercury Records and producer Jerry Kennedy. The ensuing popularity of the group's self-written compositions — essays in nostalgic small town life and the American way — established them as a leading country music group, a position confirmed by the legion of awards bestowed upon

them in both the recording and performing fields. Strangely, however, despite "Flowers On The Wall", which maintains a hold on radio performance even now, DeWitt's subsequent contribution to the material recorded by the group was minimal, the majority of songs being dominated by the pen of the Reid Brothers.

DeWitt took temporary leave of the group in November 1981 when he was diagnosed with enteritis, or Crohn's disease. He rejoined the Statler Brothers for a brief period, ill-health forced him into retirement at the end of 1982, his place being taken by Jimmy Fortune.

In 1985 DeWitt attempted to re-build his career as a solo artist with the release of an album entitled *On My Own* on the independent Complex label. It was not a success and DeWitt resigned from further direct involvement in recording and performing.

In his own right DeWitt made little impact, but as a member of the Statler Brothers DeWitt's high tenor voice was an essential ingredient of the group.

MANDY TURNER

Mandy Turner, who raised £1m for a body scanner for her local hospital in Manchester, died of cancer aged 21 on August 22. She was born on September 28, 1968.

ONLY last month Mandy Turner received the Best of British Youth Award from BBC Radio 4. It was given to her by the Duchess of Kent in recognition of her highly successful campaign to raise the million pounds needed for a body scanner for her local hospital. Nearly all her campaign was conducted from her bed in Tameside General, Greater Manchester, where she was suffering from muscle cancer.

She began by writing to DJs and pop stars, especially those with local connections, persuading them to help. One of the earliest responses came from local radio and the campaign was under way. As the fund reached six figures, soon after its inauguration at

the beginning of the year, members of the pop world moved in, including Annie Lennox of The Eurythmics who devoted a record to the cause. The England striker Gary Lineker was among those who gave his support.

The discovery of Mandy Turner's cancer was sudden. Just before her 21st birthday a lump was found on her leg, which was thought to have been caused by too much exercise. As it grew to the size of an orange an incurable form of cancer was diagnosed. Specialists gave her around six months to live and she immediately set about persuading anyone and everyone to contribute to her scanner, a mission that absorbed all the time that remained to her. She achieved her goal, even if she did not live long enough to see the arrival of the scanner, expected at the end of next month, which will surely be named after her.

£2,000 price on Eliot's own design for Cats

By JOHN SHAW

T S ELIOT's design for the jacket of his book of poems which inspired the musical *Cats* is expected to make £2,000-£3,000 at auction in London next month.

The drawing of cats climbing a ladder on the cover of *Old Possum's book of practical cats* is in a sale of modern first editions at Bloomsbury Book Auctions on September 6. It is part of the estate of the late Berthold Wolpe, in-house designer at Faber and Faber for over 30 years. Eliot was a director of the firm "and these are his original drawings for the front and rear cover of the book," said Lord John Kerr, a director of the auction house.

"There are a number of proofs of Eliot's own works with his hand-written corrections for things like *The Four Quartets*."

Wolpe's papers also contain original art work by Anthony Gross for the dust jacket of *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding (£250-£350) and water colour drawings by John Piper for Walter de la Mare's *The Traveller* (£2,000-£3,000).

A letter from Lawrence Durrell to Wolpe complaining about the design for *The Dark Labyrinth* is among the papers. "I really think that two drunken snails dipped in permanganate would have produced more aesthetically pleasing shapes. It's clumsy, it's elephantine. But really perhaps my taste is at fault, not yours."

It is one of three collections on offer, the second of which comes from the library of the late Sir Osbert Lancaster, containing numerous presentation copies like Anthony Powell's *Caledonia* inscribed "for Osbert and Karen with love from Tony, July 1949."

It was Powell's fourth book written as a pastiche of contemporary eulogistic works on Scotland. Powell has written elsewhere that due to the printers' alcoholic indulgences, the book was full of misprints and a feature of this copy are the author's corrections (£1,500-£2,000).

The third collection specialises in the works of Robert Graves and includes a first issue of the first edition of his celebrated book *Goodbye*

Leicester High School for Girls

The Autumn Term at Leicester High School begins on Wednesday, August 29. The Head Girl Sumita Dave and Captain of Games is Anna Mount. Speech Day will be held at the Queens Hall, Leicester University, on Tuesday, September 18, and the Speaker will be Professor Kathleen Morie, Professor of Nursing at the University of Liverpool. The Christmas Charity Ball will be held at the School on Friday, December 14. The Carol Service will be held at the Church of St James the Greater on Tuesday, December 18.

University news

Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

Dr W J Jones in the chair of German Studies at Bedford New College, Dr P J Jones in the chair of German Studies at Bedford New College, Dr P J Jones in the chair of German Studies at Bedford New College.

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Peacemakers always on the front line

Long accustomed as they are to criticism, officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) winced, nevertheless, at Margaret Thatcher's criticism on Monday of the ICRC's unsuccessful first attempts to gain access to the thousands of westerners held hostage by Saddam Hussein.

They had assumed the prime minister would be rather more considerate. After all, for eight years of the Gulf War they repeatedly protested as both Iran and Iraq flouted the provisions of the Geneva Conventions — to which they are signatories — and killed and mistreated both civilians and prisoners.

Strong protests are a last resort for the committee, which normally works on the principle of constantly dripping water wearing away a stone. Its appeals come only when delegates are appalled by the ferocity of combatants, or they are refused all access. The committee's attitude is that it can act only within the limits of the conventions, which cannot be adjusted to meet varying circumstances. In the case of the westerners in Iraq, it has to face the accusation that members of an all-Swiss organisation cannot, because of Switzerland's position in the western world, be regarded as perfectly neutral.

The Iraqis would be correct in once sense, at least. With few exceptions, the Red Cross staff is Swiss to the marrow. This has been the case since the organisation grew as a response to the pity and compassion felt by a young Swiss businessman, Henry Dunant, for the wounded and dying in June 1859 at Solferino, in Lombardy, where the Austrians had been defeated by the French and Piedmontese.

Today, as was the case when

As concern grows for the Iraq hostages
Alan McGregor reports on the men in Geneva who may be their best hope

it was founded, the committee comprises a maximum of 25 Swiss citizens. "International" refers to its mandate, which is to guard the principles of the Red Cross doctrine under the ICRC slogan *inter arma caritas* (in the midst of war, charity), not its composition. Committee members assemble at least once a month, under the ICRC's full-time president, Cornelio Sommaruga, aged 57, a former diplomat. The headquarters is a large building, now with spreading annexes, on high ground above the western shore of Lake Geneva. The members, who are generally middle-aged or over, have at least two things in common: they have usually made their mark, often in one of the liberal professions, and they share a conviction that the humanitarian "spirit of Geneva" is more than ever needed.

There is a headquarters staff of 630 and there are more than 800 delegates in the field, plus thousands of local personnel in almost 90 countries. The total budget is £188 million.

If the ICRC makes a protest about the Iraqi treatment of westerners, it will not be the first time it has gone public. Other occasions were the war in the Yemen in 1967, when its medical mission reported on the Egyptian use of mustard gas, and its report on conditions at Robben Island prison in South Africa. Details of specific situations have sometimes been divulged by individual delegates whose conscience compelled them to a breach of their pledge of confidentiality.

No matter how circumspect

it may sometimes appear, the ICRC has more and more gone far beyond its traditional role under the Geneva Conventions and found itself taking the initiative to try to prevent or end wars. In doing so it has encountered frequent rebuffs, notably in 1969 when it was virtually given notice to quit by the Nigerian federal government when it was trying to help the starving in Biafra. All reports are regarded as confidential, although copies go to the governments concerned — which are seldom do. Particularly in dealing with young nations, it can be a master of non-abrasive, moral persuasion.

Red Cross secrecy on concentration camp visits in the second world war is still a subject of controversy, rekindled by a recent book by Professor Jean-Claude Favez,

a historian at Geneva University, who, at the ICRC's invitation, spent six years going through its archives. He concluded that by summer 1942 there had been sufficient information on the "final solution" to justify the ICRC's issuing a public denunciation. While most of the 23 members of the committee had been in favour of this, officials feared that doing so would jeopardise the ICRC's helping POWs.

Horrific details from war-time reports by delegates, whose attempts to visit camps has been continually obstructed by the Nazis, were published in 1975 by the ICRC, which referred to the "sometimes insuperable" difficulties in its work for concentration camp inmates.

Vietnam has gone down in Red Cross history as a conflict fought largely outside the context of conventional humanitarian law as embodied in the four 1949 Geneva Conventions. Almost all the belligerents recognised the conventions, except the Vietcong, which told the ICRC that it was treating prisoners humanely.



Victims of the Iraqis: the aftermath of a gas attack on a Kurdish village

While offers of services and proposals to send a delegation to Hanoi were declined, the ICRC, in conjunction with national Red Cross societies, sent medical supplies to Hanoi, usually via the Soviet Union and China. Although its own Red Cross society invariably expressed appreciation of this, the North Viet-

name government refused throughout to allow ICRC delegates into its territory. While perseverance led, after the fighting, to early contacts with Hanoi, the ICRC was criticised within Switzerland, even by members of its own staff, for not taking a firmer and more vigorous line with both sides, particularly

the South Vietnamese. The case of Iraq presents a particular problem. While civilians are protected under the 1949 conventions, of which Iraq is a signatory, it has not yet put its name to the 1977 additional protocols containing this specific provision: "The presence or movements of the civilian

population or individual civilians shall not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations, in particular in attempts to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield, favour or impede military operations." Also prohibited is a second world war-type massive bombing of cities.



Stunning technique: Jeremy Proctor with the Deadfall

Little Nipper leads the world

Britain can still be proud of one thing: inventing an unbeatable mousetrap

Say what you like about the British mind, but it has invented the world's best-selling mousetrap. Of all the hundreds of inventions, nobody has seen off James Henry Atkinson's Little Nipper, which will sell a million again this year.

The season starts at the end of August, when the mice start coming indoors for autumn. The Little Nipper outsells the Victor, Sentry, Dead-Cat, Can't Miss, Tin Cat, Felix, Pied Piper, Cheese Trap (made in Scotland) and the rest. It is a small wooden block with a super-sensitive platform that releases a spring when the mouse stands on it. Even the best houses use it, including Buckingham Palace.

Jeremy Proctor of Proctor Brothers in Bedwas, South Wales, makers of the Little Nipper since 1875, says the mousetrap attracts inventors. He believes they enjoy the confrontation with nature: man against the wild, like an armchair hunter with no chance of being mauled. "Oh, I can make a better one than that, they think. Then they find the mice won't go near it, or the mice eat the bait and go home. It's harder than they imagined," Mr Proctor says.

But the challenge has fascinated men for thousands of years. Mr Proctor has a replica of a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mousetrap. It is a clay box with two sliding doors held up by a thin piece of stick to which the bait is attached. One shake of the stick and down come the doors to entomb the mouse.

Mr Proctor is opening Britain's first mousetrap museum at the Proctor Brothers factory. He has more than 100 historical mousetraps and, as far as he knows, there is only one other mousetrap museum in the

world: in the Pied Piper town of Hameln, in West Germany. There are several mousetrap collectors, including one in Düsseldorf who has about 1,000 models.

The museum is just a room away from where six women turn out Little Nippers for export to New Zealand, the Caribbean and the Seychelles and pack them in boxes marked "The original mousetrap. Proven over 60 years". "That's wrong. It should say 'Proven over 115 years' now," Mr Proctor says.

Some British mousetraps are designed to be kind to mice: catch them alive and let them go. But Americans do not mess about. Mr Proctor has an American trap that plugs into the power mains, and the mouse is electrocuted when it runs over two plates. "The man who gave me that says he caught one mouse with it, but after that no mice would go near it," he says.

Cheese is the most common bait but mice prefer something sweet. And peanut butter is best because, unlike the "solid" baits, it cannot be lifted off without disturbing the trap.

Medieval mousetraps are all trips and levers, sliding doors and falling weights. Mr Proctor has a few replicas made from old drawings, and a genuine 18th-century Deadfall in which a block of solid oak weighing a couple of pounds drops down on the unfortunate victim.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said that if a man made a better mousetrap than his neighbour, the world would beat a path to his door. Mr Proctor is still waiting.

YVONNE THOMAS

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Mousetrap Museum, Proctor Brothers, Bedwas, near Cardiff (0222 882111).



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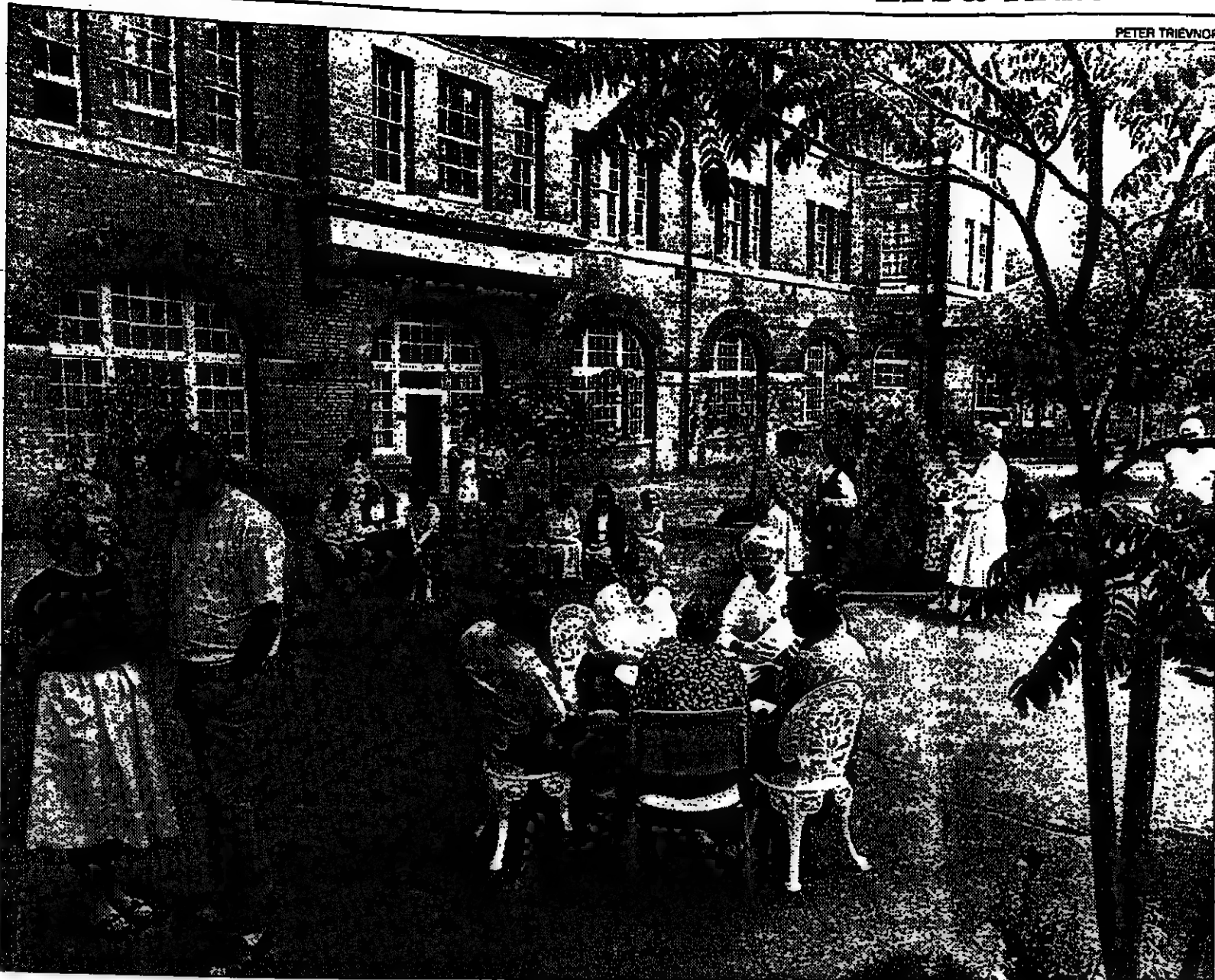
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"Slowing down and calming down and getting a new perspective": participants at a retreat at Damascus House, in Mill Hill, north London

You cannot beat a retreat

In the late 20th century, most Britons inhabit a congested, highly stressed, competitive urban world in which silence is almost an unknown quantity. Some seek relief in weekend cottages and health farms, only partially successfully.

"The secular world is feeling for some way of pausing to reflect, but has yet to find one," says Gillian Russell, the administrator of the National Retreat Centre. She has seen a great growth of interest in retreats, mainly from practising Christians, but also from non-believers.

"I feel really in need when the time for my retreat is coming up," Ms Russell says. "There is a chance to take stock instead of blindly struggling on, to assess both the material and the spiritual life. 'Seven years ago I got cancer, and thought I only had a few months left. I had recently been on my first guided retreat, and found I had gathered myself. People get the idea that silence is terrifying, but there is always the chance of talking to the retreat leader. Actually, corporate silence can be very powerful'."

Retreats involve withdrawing to a house, probably in the country and possibly a religious community, where silence prevails and meditation and prayer are possible. There are two basic forms: the preached retreat, in which passages of scripture are read and addresses given, and the guided retreat, in which individuals follow their own line of meditation, helped by regular meetings with a priest.

Also increasingly popular, particularly with beginners, are theme retreats — painting, nature — in which there is less silence and more activity.

Theme retreats, which welcome beginners, attempt to find spiritual satisfaction and a sense of the mystery of life by releasing creativity.

The typical pattern for a weekend guided retreat is arrival on Friday for supper (at which you can talk) followed by an introductory address by the retreat leader, and then silence through Saturday breakfast (which is, perhaps, followed by an address). After lunch, the afternoon is free for resting or walking — and talking. But these taking part may they often find the silence so

much more restful than any normal annual holiday. In a sense, "retreat" is a little bit of a misnomer. You escape from the "everyday" cares of the world to find yourself.

They have been to retreats in Berkshire, the Midlands and France. "Retreat centres are rather like hotels," Mr McNicholas says. "They vary and sometimes the artist's impression is different from the reality. Some of them are quite small and quite plush."

Barbara Watt, a 43-year-old nurse, goes to retreats "to take stock, to get everything back into perspective and to be quiet". She says she has been to six different retreats over the past ten years and says that she much prefers them to holidays abroad. She is a born-again Christian and has been to a denominational cross-section of retreats, including a silent Anglican convent in Oxfordshire where she spent four days: "I took my books, my tape recorder and radio with me but I didn't play them loudly of course."

She has also been to a "quite austere" Franciscan monastery in Dorset where, apart from one "proper" meal a week, she shared the monks' diet of bread, soup and fruit and ate alongside tramps. It was, she says, "a very levelling experience". At an interdenominational retreat in Sussex the

Her husband, a 29-year-old accountant, agrees. "It is a religious experience. I find it

The perfect bank holiday escape? In a secular world, retreats are becoming more popular, writes Geraldine Bedell

"good home-cooked food" included a substantial breakfast in bed.

"Each time I've gone, I've felt I've received something spiritually as well as meeting some nice people," Miss Watt says. "Once I spent the whole time sleeping. It's nice to do what you want when you want and just to be in a nice, peaceful atmosphere."

Nicholas Lloyd does not regard staying at a retreat as a holiday, but as "something extra". He and his wife Christine, a veterinary surgeon, have been on retreats together and individually. "I think it can help to cement a relationship but it can also be good to go separately and compare notes. It gives you a bit of a rest from each other."

Mr Lloyd, aged 31, an engineer with British Aerospace, has been going to retreats since he was at university. "I find it gets me closer to God and more able to cope with life," he says. He found a silent Jesuit retreat in Wales "immensely enriching". The fact that there was no talking meant that "you become aware of other levels of communication, and therefore become aware of other people in a way you do not in the normal, talking, world. Because your mind is not cluttered with verbal communication you're able to relate to people in a much more down-to-earth and considerate way."

He believes that people go to retreats for a variety of reasons: "A nice holiday, fresh air, the company, a bit of spiritual uplift or a chance to be together with a partner. Spirituality is to do with the whole person. I'm a very down to earth sort of chap and if the food isn't good and the bed isn't comfortable and I'm shivering all the time and there are no nice walks I

would feel I hadn't had a good retreat. I believe all those things are quite important."

Many retreats are full for most of the year, having only been revived on any scale in the past 25 years. Although popular in the 15th and 16th centuries, the practice fell away until the 1860s, when interest grew a little with the rise of the Tractarians. But retreats only really took off following the Second Vatican Council, in the mid-Sixties, and subsequent interest in Ignatian spiritual exercises, on which the modern guided retreat is based.

The Rev Richard Buck, who is the former chairman of the Association for Promoting Retreats, says that while retreats specifically for the clergy are declining, the number of lay people attending retreats has increased enormously. "In a crisis people tend to ask square one questions about life and God."

"Retreats today don't offer narrow 'me and my soul' exercises. Nor do we see ourselves providing answers. We all love certainties, but the whole point is to show people how to find God working within them."

© The National Retreat Centre, Liddon House, 24 South Audley Street, London W1Y 5DL, will provide "The Vision", a list of retreats, for £1.50 including postage.

Can you find 12 men too good to be true?

A barrister acquaintance of mine tells the following story. A chum of his was summoned for a jury panel. He put on a clean shirt, knotted his tie and presented himself for duty. On his first try, the accused's barrister used up one of his three peremptory challenges to dismiss him. The second day, the would-be juror put on another clean shirt and was rejected by the defence in a different case.

"The ironic thing," my barrister friend says, "is that he was an intelligent, thinking man of impeccably liberal attitudes. An ideal juror." On the third day, the man no longer felt any need to worry about his duties as a citizen. He put on jeans and a T-shirt in preparation for a lazy afternoon. No challenge this time. He served on a jury.

I thought about that anecdote, which illustrates the silliness of trying to predict a person's attitude from his class characteristics. What brought it to mind was the much remarked upon interview with Lord Denning in last week's *Spectator*, a part of which referring to the Guildford Four, is now to be the subject of an apology. Elsewhere, Lord Denning said: "The present system of random juries may lead to random justice. Look how bad it is in complex financial cases. The jury aren't bright people, they aren't versed in accounts."

I happen to disagree, but this was mild stuff compared with Lord Denning's remarks — which he also later withdrew and for which he apologised — on juries in 1981, when he misguidedly claimed that the race and ethnicity of a jury had been manipulated.

But I think such attitudes may have had something to do with creating the mood that, in January 1989, led to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, abolishing the right of each defence counsel to three peremptory challenges. A sense had been created among the Tories that dismissing jurors without some demonstrably good reason was frivolous at best and more likely mischievous.

Whatever the merit of this view, it was a splendid example of an ill-conceived action that creates a worse reaction. The Tories did not grasp what was blowing in the wind. So-called visible minority groups, such as women and blacks, took up the cause. If the peremptory challenge was killed off simply in order to prevent them having black women jurors, then, by heaven, they would demand multiracial juries as a matter of right.

"After all," one black spokesperson said, quite logically, "the government is making efforts to correct the racial imbalance in the judiciary and among magistrates. Why shouldn't it tackle racism in the jury system?" The Tories were being hit by their own petard of affirmative action. Now, black groups have demanded that judges be given broad powers to empanel



BARBARA AMIEL

multiracial juries according to the "racial dimensions" of the crime before them. Last June, the Lord Chancellor's Department announced that in response to concerns by the Society of Black Lawyers, the department would monitor the racial composition of juries at selected crown courts in England and Wales.

These days it is fashionable to think that jurors can be "scientifically" selected and their prejudices and reactions anticipated. One of the best critiques of this line of thought is made in the book *The Case for the Defence* by Edward L. Greenspan and George Jonas, two Toronto lawyers. As Mr Jonas and Mr Greenspan point out, the advocates of "balanced" juries believe that people are decisively influenced in their views by their own backgrounds, social positions and personal

The fashion is to think that jurors can be scientifically selected

circumstances. This belief is put together with the notion that, given this "class" position, an individual's judgment would proceed in a straight, unbroken line: broadly speaking, a rich man will acquit another rich man, a black man ought to be sympathetic to another black, and a middle-class white jury will convict an inner city black on the basis of prejudice rather than evidence.

The attempt to fashion "designer" juries had its roots in America during the Vietnam anti-war years, although even then juries refused to live up to this quasi-Marxist analysis. At the famous trial of the Harrisburg Eight, where Father Daniel Berrigan was charged with conspiring to raid draft boards and destroy records, the defence selected a jury based on what experts thought was the perfect jury profile. It included a woman with four sons who were conscientious objectors on religious grounds. But Father Berrigan was convicted anyway and because, in the United States, jurors are permitted to talk about their deliberations, it was revealed that two jurors had held out for conviction, one being the woman juror.

According to Mr Greenspan and Mr Jonas, when the social scientists did succeed in selecting a jury favourable to their side, such as the trial of Angela Davis, the black radical, where the jury forewoman gave a clenched fist salute after the acquittal, it turned out that the reason was not achieved by painstaking analysis of background and class. The defence had simply done some detective work and got the addresses of prospective jurors. Since, in California, many people wear their politics on the bumper stickers of their cars, they had discovered the political affiliation of some of the prospective jurors. That was how they came up with the militant clenched-fist lady foreperson.

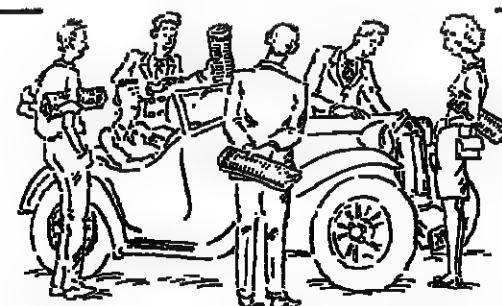
If we want to assure equality before the law in a multiracial society, and if our aims are those of a traditional liberal democracy, then we can only proceed on the assumption that all citizens, regardless of race, religion, class, ethnicity, gender and nationality are competent to sit in judgment on their peers, in the absence of personal bias or incompetence. If you make the contrary assumption, then you must conclude that people can be judged only on the basis of their belonging to the same group: that, in fact, we are not each other's peers and that I would require a jury with a representation of middle-class Jewish women in order to assure me a fair trial. One cannot deny that middle-class jurors may have some problems in judging, say, a case that involves a welfare drifter. But such problems cannot be used to negate the basic principle of a liberal democracy.

While every defendant is entitled to an unbiased hearing, he is not entitled to a hearing biased in his favour, which seems to be the thinking behind any jury quota system. We should also understand that human beings are feeling, thinking animals whose behaviour cannot be predicted just because they are in the same income bracket or race.

One can eliminate obvious prejudice and incompetence by allowing our defence lawyers to ask a few plain questions. The rest of good jury selection is probably based on just looking at people, not in the hope of diagnosing them by the cut of their suit, but on the basis of one's general experience of human nature. For that reason, the peremptory challenge ought to be reinstated.

In the end, I agree with Mr Greenspan's conclusion that trials are lost or won on the way the evidence unfolds in court and according to how well the prosecution, the defence and the police have done their homework. I suppose luck plays a part, as it does in all human endeavours. But we cannot measure out luck in equal quotas. As Edward Bennett Williams, the great American lawyer, put it: "All you're entitled to is a clean test-tube."

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GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Houses may be owned by retreat organisations, religious orders, or, as in the case of Abbey House, Glastonbury, by the diocese. Abbey House, a fine Victorian building in 40 acres of mature gardens in the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, offers both Monday-Friday and weekend retreats, either organised in-house or by groups using the house. "We have a programme of typical Anglican preached retreats," says Martin Oliver, the warden. "Traditional silence, with a few addresses, and a conductor available for confessions and discussion." Abbey House also offers theme retreats, with painting, calligraphy and nature study. There is accommodation for 30 people and the cost is £17.50 a day. Mr Oliver describes the food as "good home cooking".

At Hazlewood Castle, a Roman Catholic house near Tadcaster, Yorkshire, both preached and guided retreats are available; this year they had a week on Zen meditation for Christians. A family house for centuries, Hazlewood was taken over by the Carmelites, or white friars, in 1972. Guests are accommodated in the stable block, across the courtyard from the castle. A retreat at Hazlewood Castle costs £22 a day, and the rector, Father Conleth, believes the food is "pretty good".

Coleg Trefeeca, a Presbyterian Church of Wales house near Talgarth, in the Brecon Beacons, Powys, runs a variety of preached retreats, in either Welsh or English. Recent retreats have looked at the peace movement and Celtic spirituality. "We don't have any guided retreats — although we might in the future," says Tom Wright, the warden. Trefeeca is an 18th century Gothic Revival house but guests, who pay £26 a weekend, stay in a functional 1973 hostel block.

For those who prefer Buddhism, there are a number of men's, women's and mixed retreats. Taraloka, a women's retreat on a farm near Whitchurch, Shropshire, is fairly typical in having more of a course structure than most Christian retreats. Help with meditation is always offered, whether the purpose of the weekend is yoga, massage or aikido. "We also feel an amount of silence is beneficial," says Taraloka's secretary, Ann Fowler.

A community of some ten women live permanently at Taraloka, which offers both beginner's and advanced courses (for those already involved with Friends of the Western Buddhist Order). Taraloka can accommodate up to 50 in dormitories and caravans. The price varies, but is about £53 a weekend for earners, £33 for those on lower income. Food is vegetarian.

Some retreats close for repairs and redecorations in August. Most bookings have to be done in advance but there are still many day places available for this weekend.

JAZZ

Saints still marching in

The Dirty Dozen Brass Band is keeping traditional New Orleans jazz alive, writes Clive Davis

The great jazz drummer Zutty Singleton once gave a thumbnail sketch of a New Orleans funeral procession. The real event, he recalled, began once the corpse was disposed of. "The morning got over quick. Right out the graveyard, the drummer would throw on the snare, roll the drums, get the cats together and light out. The cornet would give a few notes, and then about three blocks from the graveyard they would cut loose."

It is the hallowed image of New Orleans. Outsiders might assume that it now belongs to the history books or, at best, the tourist brochures. The truth, however, is that the tradition is alive and flourishing in the form of the Dirty Dozen Brass Band. At a time when too much modern jazz is mired in abstruse technical detail, the Dirty Dozen are a throwback to more spontaneous and uninhibited times. Happy to mix jazz with rhythm and blues, soca or rock, they are one of the world's supreme live groups.

The Dozen are, in fact, an eight-piece. As one of their trumpeters Gregory Davis recalls, they originally came together in the mid-Seventies as entertainers on New Orleans's informal network of recreational and self-help organisations — the "social and parties" clubs. Responsible for organising funerals, parades and parties, the clubs played host to the traditional marching bands, but by the time Davis and his

colleagues arrived on the scene, the practice was in decline. "We didn't get much work at the beginning playing traditional music," says Davis. "The old music had pretty much died out; there were only two other bands around. We thought, 'To heck with that,' and decided we would learn some more modern music, stuff that came along after the original New Orleans sound. Young people wanted music that was closer to their time. Some of it was not that new — it was from the Forties, Fifties or Sixties. But to their ears it was fresh. They had heard the traditional pieces a million times on Bourbon Street."

The new approach made an immediate impact, not always to the approval of the old guard. There have been continual mutterings that the Dirty Dozen are a vulgarisation of the true New Orleans style. Kirk Joseph's sousaphone may look reassuringly old-fashioned, but the group certainly wanders a long way from the standard polyphony. The players are much more fond of brass riff patterns, reminiscent of an R'n'B showband. No wonder the purists were disappointed.

What mattered most was that the Dirty Dozen found an audience. Davis remembers that there was soon so much work that they were working six or seven days a week. Substitute bands had to be formed to take on some of the workload (one of the hired hands, it seems, was the young Wynton Marsalis). Now that the Dirty

Dozen have achieved national recognition, there are said to be some 30 young New Orleans bands chasing at their heels.

Apart from the local competition, the only problem the Dirty Dozen now face is how to transfer the excitement of their stage act to the studio. *Voodoo*, last year's debut recording for CBS, was a highly enjoyable piece of work, yet it still captured only a fraction of the band's vitality. The same is true of the new release, called simply *The New Orleans Album*. "In a live performance, we're feeding off the crowd," Davis explains. "In the studio we're more conscious of trying to get it correct. But when we record, we don't do it the tapes much. If there's a wrong note or a split note, but the feel of the song is good, we'll keep it. The band is more about movement and feeling than individualism."

The exuberant style makes the Dozen a rarity on the contemporary jazz circuit, where the fashion is to look as grim and puritanical as a Fruit of Loom bodysuit. There is so much suspicion of anything resembling entertainment that the Dirty Dozen are still not taken seriously in some quarters. One critic on the New York weekly, *The Village Voice*, dismissed Davis and his colleagues as "the lounge band of a tourist's dream."

Though Davis admits that he sometimes bears of negative comments, he is unconcerned. "We're not trying to be a technical, precise

machine; we don't necessarily follow all the rules. I won't name names, but I know some supposedly heavyweight players who have tried to sit in with us, and use all the little tricks they learnt in the conservatory. The time was moving so fast, they couldn't do it."

Touring takes up more than eight months of each year. The schedule is demanding, but the musicians show little sign of strain once they are on the stage. Last weekend's performance at the Brecon festival was a characteristic revel which left many listeners in a joyful daze. But when was the last time the group went back to their roots and played a New Orleans parade? Four or five years ago, Davis replies.

On the rare occasions when they are at home, and there is the funeral of someone they know, individual members often take their instruments along to the procession. "I miss it," says Davis. "It's a gruelling job, marching ten miles in the sun, sometimes for five or six hours. But I do miss the closeness of the crowd, and that busy atmosphere."

Dancing is not an activity that comes easily to some of the Dirty Dozen's audiences. Gregory Davis recalls that the British used to be among the most difficult people to play for. "When we first came over, people were very polite. It took us 15 or 20 minutes to get over to them that it was all right to have a good time." Fifteen or 20 minutes! Some bands cannot do that in 15 or 20 years.



New-style New Orleans: Roger Lewis of the Dirty Dozen Brass Band, at the Brecon Jazz Festival

RECORD REVIEWS: ROCK AND CLASSICAL

A talent too thinly spread

Prince Graffiti Bridge (Paisley Park 7599-27493-1)
Soul Asylum Soul Asylum and the Horse They Rode in on (A&M 395 318-2)
Lemonheads Lovey (Atlantic 7587-82137-1)

GRAFFITI Bridge. Prince's fourth movie soundtrack, has more in common with the throwaway *Batman* score of last year than it does with his magnum opus, *Purple Rain*. Spread over four sides, the album gives little indication of what the forthcoming film is about, save that it will unfurl to the super-funky-sound of party animals on the hoof.

A notorious workaholic (he is still touring the *Batman* album the week that *Graffiti Bridge* is released) Prince displays a lordly impatience with his material. The songs are quick, flighty sketches, embellished with ornate vocal dabs and flourishes but often set against the sparsest of instrumental backdrops, with little or no colouring beyond the basic drum or drum-machine tracks. Melodies and riffs are thus subjected to inordinately harsh exposure and, frankly, much of *Graffiti Bridge* wails in the glare.

A duet with funkmeister George Clinton sounds a good bet in principle, but the resulting "We can Funk" amounts to little more than a twitzy outburst of vocal crossfire and a hang-tough groove. Similarly, the rapprochement with his old Minneapolis sparring partners Morris Day and the Time promises more than is actually delivered on the several one-



Prince: Producing his fourth soundtrack for cinema

dimensional dance tracks on which they are featured.

Of the unusually high quota of guest artists it is Mavis Staples who best gets the measure of the situation with her powerhouse performance of "Melody Cool", stabbing across a riff with considerably more poke than most.

The problem with *Graffiti Bridge* is one of quality control. Who is there around these days to suggest to Prince that a song which he has just single-handedly composed, produced, sung and played all the instruments is not quite up to scratch? When he is putting out material of the calibre of the jaunty opener "Can't Stop This Feeling I Got" or the rousing "Thieves in the Temple" single, there is no problem. But the rule track, which sounds like a bizarre cross between a Pepsi commercial and "In an English Country Garden", is one of many here that

could have benefited from some revision.

ALSO from Minneapolis is the confusingly named *Soul Asylum*, a group which has nothing to do with the soul-funk mafia that grew up around Prince, but is descended from the hardcore tradition established by those other, more muscular Minneapolitans, Hüsker Dü. *Soul Asylum* and the *Horse They Rode in on*, the band's fourth album, finds them taking a softer tack than in their last gloriously overdriven excursion, *Hang Time*, released in 1988.

Despite the impassioned vocals and elegant sub-Sonics chord sequence of "Veil of Tears", and notwithstanding a spirited James Gang pastiche entitled "Something out of Nothing", they have succumbed to a bout of stylistic self-doubt sharply at odds with their former gung-ho spirit.

ON THE other hand, however, *Lemonheads*, a power trio from Boston, could not be more bushy-tailed and bristling with confidence on their major-label debut, *Lovey*. There is a delicious arrogance about the sound of loud guitars wielded by American youths of a certain vintage that this album captures perfectly. From "Li'l Seed" with its shimmering wab-wab riff to "The Door" with its rolling REM-like arpeggios, the clamour of those peculiarly blessed instruments soars forth with imperious disregard.

DAVID SINCLAIR

DISTANT trumpets ricochet amidst singing birds and barking dogs; horse hoofs clatter from left to right; and Britannia, eventually, rules. Forget the 1812 overture, *Wellington's Victory* or *The Battle of Vittoria* is the real test of one's hi-fi. The Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields even sent its record producers out to the fields of Waterloo in order to do justice to the battle-scene which Beethoven (Anglophile and no anti-Napoleonicist) originally intended for a brand-new invention, the panharmonic machine. In the end, this early synthesiser took just too long to prepare for the mêlée, so battle was done via a live orchestra, with Saliere directing the French and English sides. Meyerbeer on the drums and Moscheles wielding the cymbals.

Sir Neville and his recruits clearly had just as much fun fighting their way through the sound effects until, 16 minutes and 188 live cannon shots later, "God save the King" prances forth in playful fugato. The serious part of the record is the Seventh Symphony, and it is serious indeed. The Academy's performance has a dogged, mussy strength about it, built from deep articulation and tempi slow enough to allow for moments like the marvellously sustained linking passage back to the third movement's Presto. The spirit, let alone the apotheosis of the dance, is all but smothered by the performance's relentless logic and stately control.

Sibelius, too, finds livelier responses away from the main symphony. Jukka-Pekka Saraste's cycle is distinguished by the shorter, lesser-known pieces

Notes on a battle

Beethoven Symphony No 7/Wellington's Victory. Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields. Philips 426 238-2.
Sibelius Symphony No 6/Scenes Historiques. Finnish RSO/Saraste. RCA RD 80157.
Nielsen Symphony No 4/Violin Concerto. RPO/Teliefson/Manuhin. Virgin VC 7 9 911-2.
Martini Symphonies Nos 1 & 2. Berlin SO/Fior. RCA RD 80154.
Hartmann, Stravinsky: Modern Portraits. Moscow Virtuosi/Spivakov. RCA RD 80370.
Scriabin Symphony No 2. Philadelphia/Mul. EMI CDC 7 49858 2.

which complement each central work. It is his imaginative recreation of these, rather than any outstanding insights into the symphony itself, which recommends the recording.

The *Scenes Historiques* were written for a series of historic tableaux played out in 1899 in Helsinki, when Finland's autonomy as a Grand Duchy within Tsarist Russia was declining, and the national epic, the *Kalevala*, was being read as never before. The Sixth Symphony, less heroic than either the Fifth or the Seventh, reveals the strengths of Saraste and his orchestra, as the conductor's lyrical instincts and the strings' transparent textures recreate the effect of near-weightless, unaccompanied choral writing in the outer two movements.

Nielsen's Fourth Symphony was being written in the post-war years in which Sibelius's Sixth had been germinating. Yet it would be difficult to find two works so close in time and place, yet so far apart in temperament and inspiration. This performance of the "Inextinguishable" by the Royal Philharmonic under Manuhin touches the nerves of the music's disquiet and taps the strength of its long

paragraphs without ever achieving either the authority of Blomstedt's recording with the San Francisco Symphony, or the vivid detail of Salonen's with the Swedish Radio Orchestra. Again, it is the programming which will determine the choice: this one alone is coupled with Arve Telfeisen's sinewy performance of Nielsen's Violin Concerto.

NEEME Jarvi and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra have been mostly responsible for preparing the way on disc for this year's Martini centenary. Claus-Peter Flor, one of the composer's liveliest advocates at Edinburgh this year, is now providing the competition, and his First and Second Symphonies confirm his fresh and intuitive alertness to the rhythmic life of Martini's writing.

The initial eruption, which catapults the First Symphony from minor to major, also propels it into a highly strung world of dislocated memories. Flor shifts the lenses skilfully, just as he releases the song at the heart of the more relaxed, pastoral Second Symphony.

Karl Amadeus Hartmann, pupil of Webern and vigorous anti-

Nazi, wrote his 1939 *Concerto funebre* as a threnody on the death of the Czech Republic and its occupation. In its feverish lyricism and its unnatural brightness of rhythmic and harmonic intensity, it is strong stuff which belies the dull and inauspiciously named "Modern Portraits" assembled by Vladimir Spivakov and his Moscow Virtuosi. Theirs is, in fact, a compelling programme. The ruffled Penderecki *Capriccio* follows a muscular, hard-working performance of Stravinsky's *Concerto in D*. Schütz's *Suite in the Old Style*, transcribed by Spivakov himself for chamber orchestra, sharpens the knife-edge of nostalgia and mockery, as different instrumental voices offer spitting images of a variety of Baroque labours.

Scriabin was less than ten years out of the Moscow Conservatoire when he wrote his Second Symphony. It still shows the formal line of its Russian antecedents and, in the absence of the more emotionally explicit, more programmatic markings of the composer's later works, Riccardo Muti rightly focuses on the shifting orchestral textures and the restless motion of its melody.

Points of accumulated tension and orchestral turfs are pulled together firmly and tightly, ballasting the whole and exploiting Scriabin's own unifying elements and thematic route markers. Moments of release are as sensitively pointed: textures thin out to reveal the violin and woodwind soloists which make this particular orchestral palette so distinctive.

HILARY FINCH

CRITICS' CHOICE: JAZZ, ROCK AND WORLD MUSIC

JAZZ

THE FAREWELL BALL: Edinburgh's event cruises towards its close with a massed line-up topped by Harry Edwards's Festival All Stars and the Eddie Condon Celebration Band. Edinburgh Jazz Festival, Jazz Pavilion, Meadowbank Stadium (Information: 031-225 5257), tonight, 8.30pm-3am, £11.

JAZZ AT THE CAZ: Open air proms with the likes of boogie-woogie virtuoso Axel Zwingenberger and swing saxophonist Scott Hamilton. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent (Information: 0522 35203/4), tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, £9.50.

BUDE JAZZ FESTIVAL: Largely given over to New Orleans and Dixieland bands, the event also features the premiere of John Pethbridge and Martin Linton's stage show "Mr Jelly Roll" (Thurs). Various venues, Bude, Cornwall (Information: 0288 356360), tomorrow until Sept 1, times and prices vary.

JAZZ IN THE HAY: Taking up where Brecon '90 left off, the festival concentrates on older styles, with Terry Lightfoot (Sun) and the Syd Lawrence Orchestra (Tues) among the performers.

Various venues, Hay-on-Wye (Information: 0497 02080), tomorrow until Sept 2, times & prices vary.

ROUND MIDNIGHT: The concert hall season opens with Nina Simone. Apart from the over-hyped Steve Williamson (Wed), the roster features George Melly (Tues) and a chamber orchestra set by the under-rated Scottish singer Carol Kidd (Thurs). Queen's Hall, Clerk Street, Edinburgh (031-688 2019), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, prices vary.

CECIL TAYLOR: High priest of Free Jazz assaults the keyboard, with accomplices William Parker (bass) and Tony Oxley (percussion). Support from the more melodically inclined saxophonist Dick Morrissey. Ronnie Scott's Club, London W1 (071-439 0747), Mon-Fri 10pm until Sept 1, 9.30pm, Mon-Thurs £10 (members £2), Fri-Sat £12 (members £8).

COMPANY WEEK: Derek Bailey's four avant-garde gathering finds room for duets from Mats Gustafson and Kjell Nordeson (Tues), and Steve Noble and Alex Ward (Wed). The Place Theatre, 17 Duke's Road, London WC1 (071-387 0031), Tues until Sept 1, 8pm, £5.

EDDIE HENDERSON: Robust, all-round trumpeter whose recent work

has leaned towards fusion. His band includes the tasteful British keyboard player Terry Dwyer. Bass Clef, 35 Coronet Street, London N1 (071-729 2476), Tues-Thurs, 9pm, Tues, 5. Wed, Thurs, 5.

BLOSSOM DEARIE: More songs of Chelsea, New York as the coy saloon singer continues her piano residency. Piazza on the Park, 11 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-226 5530), nightly until Sept 8, 8.15pm and 11.15pm, £10.

CLIVE DAVIS

ROCK

FLEETWOOD MAC: Despite the addition of new guitarist Rick Vito and Billy Burnette and the enduring presence of John McVie and Mick Fleetwood, attention continues to focus on keyboard player Christine McVie and vocal Steve Nicks, as they chart a course through a repertoire stuffed with melodious, haunting hits. Also on the bill are "progressive rock" warhorses Jethro Tull and Hall & Oates. Manchester City FC, Maine Road (061-273 3775), tomorrow, gates 4pm, £18.50.

LIVING COLOUR: Explosive quartet, led by virtuoso guitarist Vernon Reid. They were largely responsible for discrediting the prejudiced notion that black musicians could or should not play heavy metal.

Reading Festival (with Poets, the Fall, Jesus Jones, Tackhead and others), Richfield Avenue (081-953 0797), Sun, midday-11.30pm, £16. Marquee, 105 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (071-437 6803), Tues, 7.30pm, £5.50.

THE DAN REED NETWORK: Young, Oregon-based five-piece. (See review, Page 18). Wembley Stadium (with the Rolling Stones), Empire Way (081-900 1234), tonight, tomorrow, gates 4pm, £22.50.

Rock City, 8 Talbot Street, Nottingham (0802 412544), Mon, 8pm, £5. Barrowlands 244 Gallowgate, Glasgow (041-226 4679), Tues, 7.30pm, £5.60. Royal Court, 1 Rose Street, Liverpool (051-708 4321), Wed, 7pm, £5. Hummingbird, Dale End, Birmingham (021-236 4236), Thurs, 7pm, £5.

PRINCE: With "Thieves in the Temple" flying high and his new album *Graffiti Bridge* out this week (see record review, above), the Minneapolis midgit polishes off his midly rude Nude Tour.

Wembley Arena (see above), tonight, 7.30pm, £16-£18.50.

DAVID SINCLAIR

WORLD MUSIC

MECHANIC MANVERUKE: Zimbabwe gospel star who plays a strikingly original electric guitar accompaniment to his vocals. King's Head, The Broadway, London N6 (081-941 1028), Thurs, 8pm, £4.

CARNIVAL: Notting Hill Carnival showcases an increasingly eclectic mix of music, including pan-African beats, reggae, soul, jazz, bangra and soca. Portobello Green, Notting Hill, London W11, Sun and Mon, from 11am.

DAVID RUDDER: Trinidad's David Rudder is currently king of this competitive and topical music called soca. A new album, 1990, is a good example of his artful blend of political messages and accessible music. West Indian Centre, Sporn Street, Coventry (0203 552323), tonight.

8.30pm, £5.50. West Indian Centre, Laycock Place, Leeds (0532 820486), tomorrow, 8pm, £8. Town & Country Club, Highgate Road, London NW5 (071-284 0303), Sun, 8pm, £2.

CHINA ENSEMBLE: The unwieldy title of the China National Minority Arts Ensemble gives fair warning that this will be a picturesque display of folkloric music and dance facsimiles. The minorities represented include Tibetans and Mongolians. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-628 6800), Tues, 7.45pm, £5-£9.

LOVE ISAAC: To judge from his Agor album, Love Isaacs from Ghana, with his high-life band, Sky Youth, plays a tenuous mixture of African music and international pop. Africa Centre, King Street, London WC2 (071-938 1973), tonight, 8pm, £2.

DAVID TOOP

EARLY WARNING

NEW MODEL ARMY: UK tour dates include October 10, Cornhill Coliseum, St Austell (07281 4004); 11, De Montfort Hall, Leicester (0533 540395); 12, Leeds University (0532 431751); 13, Civic Centre, Wolverhampton (0902 27811); 15, Royal Court, Liverpool (051-708 4321); 16, Barrowlands, Glasgow (041-552 4801); 17, Music Hall, Aberdeen (0224 641122); 19, Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851); 20, Aston Villa Leisure Centre, Birmingham (021-328 4894); 21, Newport Centre, Gwent (0533 841522); 22, Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 526555); 24 (071-294 0303); 27, Manchester University (061-275 2000).

DEPECHE MODE: An extra date has been added to the UK tour: November 23, Wembley Arena (081-902 1234).

A-Z GUIDE TO ROCK

Part 43 of David Sinclair's collectors' A-Z, a guide to the essential albums of the most enduring performers of rock. To qualify for inclusion in this series, an act

must have sustained a recording career of at least 10 years, and have mustered at least one decent album during that time. The entries are designed to be pasted

on to index cards and stored in a bin by 4in filing box, available from most good stationery shops, to form an instant guide to the hits and misses of rock history.

LOU REED

With New York (1989), a caustic elegy to the city that has both nurtured and appalled him, Lou Reed at last began to raise his profile towards a level commensurate with his historical stature. As a founder member of the Velvet Underground, he was one of the prime movers in the development of modern rock. Their influential debut, *The Velvet Underground* with Nico (1967), bearing Andy Warhol's explicitly celebrated "banana" cover design, initiated a miscreant strand of rock-as-alienation. Reed's compositions, "Heroin" and "I'm Waiting for the Man" acted as a corrosive antidote to the gentle hippie ideals of the time. *The Velvet Loaded* (1970) provides further evidence of Reed's laconic yet vivid narrative style, notably the standards "Sweet Jane" and "Rock and Roll". Reed subsequently embarked on a fitful solo career. Transformed (1972), produced by David Bowie, is the best of his early work, incorporating "Vicious" and "Walk on the Wild Side", a sublime evocation of New York lowlife that remains his best known hit.



Lou Reed: Laconic style

CLIFF RICHARD

No other act comes close to replicating Cliff Richard's phenomenal longevity: from the Fifties skiffle boom to the era of Stock Aitken and Waterman and beyond, he is the most successful British chart act of all time. His 1988 double-album compilation, *Private Collection*, rounds up his last decade's worth of hits, from "We Don't Talk Anymore" to "Mistake and Wine", yet barely scratches the surface of his immense portfolio. Starting as the English answer to Elvis Presley with his first hit "Move It" in 1958, Richard and his redoubtable Shadows were the biggest pop sensation on this side of the Atlantic. From that era, *Me and My Shadows* (1960) is an apt rock 'n' roll set written almost entirely by Cliff and the boys. But Richard's credentials as a teen idol were nullified once the Beatles arrived, and from 1964 he wisely adapted his light, clean tenor voice to the demands of the Eurovision, blue-rinse mainstream. *Golden Greats* (1977) is a neat, chronological collection of the early hits.

NEXT WEEK: The Rolling Stones

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Mozart

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ARTS

VISUAL ART

On the track of Narcissus

Self-glorifying or bizarre, installation art is in vogue — but selling it poses practical problems, as John Russell Taylor reports

Installation is a nice, all-purpose word — modern-sounding, too. It can, without difficulty, cover the otherwise unclassifiable artworks that have become familiar through the Minimalist and Conceptual phases of modern art. Every art show, after all, is an installation of some sort, though each qualifies as an installation only if arranged by the artist and if the individual works included were intended specifically for this particular context.

Thus Stephen Campbell's new show, "On Form and Fiction" (in its last week at Marlborough Fine Art before moving on to Aberdeen Art Gallery) is an installation in the full sense of the term: it depends not so much on the impact of the 12 framed acrylics on paper, but on the way these combine with more than 150 unframed drawings applied directly to the wall, on top of which most of the paintings nestle.

This is, of course, making the best of both worlds. The way the pictures are shown is a talking point, and the ensemble can be thought of as embodying a philosophical attitude beyond a specific reading, picture by picture. At the same time, once the show has completed its tour, it can be dismantled and the individual sections sold separately.

That is a neat solution to the problem with installation art, which is a purely commercial one. What is the artist to live on apart from an endless series of commissions of the same sort? After all, apart from Charles Saatchi and a few other collectors on a similar scale, how many can afford the space or the money to take over an artwork which would quite possibly occupy the whole space within which they live?

Barbara Bloom has found one possible answer in her installation, "The Reign of Narcissism" at the Serpentine. The principal part of this is the first room: an elegant neo-classical hexagon built within the grimy rectangular entry hall of the gallery. Through it, the visitor passes to elaborations.

The room itself is intended to evoke one of those museums, usually in a former home, dedicated to a single artist. Since the single artist in this case is evidently Bloom, the references to Narcissus are self-explanatory. All the same, there remains a strong element of irony.

To be absorbed with, and surrounded by, self-images — on canoes, tapestries, chocolates, in portrait busts, and then supplement it with signatures on up-holstery, and the name on tombstones as well as libraries of imaginary books — is to carry narcissism to absurd lengths. Perhaps it all adds up to a wry reduction on the personality cult of the artist, as well as a tacit admission that this is something that artists (while complaining about it) have been known covertly to foster.

What is the commercial solution, given that quite possibly no collector, not even a museum, can be found to take over the whole thing? Obviously, all the individual

parts of the installation can be multiplied and sold separately. The Serpentine has for sale duplicate chocolate boxes (the contents not edible, presumably), sets of dummy books constituting the collected imaginary works of Barbara Bloom, and so on.

They would hardly be the same, or have the same force, divorced from their context in the room. But possibly they may be bought, nevertheless, as the rather grand equivalent of the postcard souvenir of a picture particularly appreciated in an exhibition.

There is even a book — a real book by Barbara Bloom — which documents the whole thing for posterity, with a wealth of references, scholarly or tongue-in-cheek, according to the reader's taste.

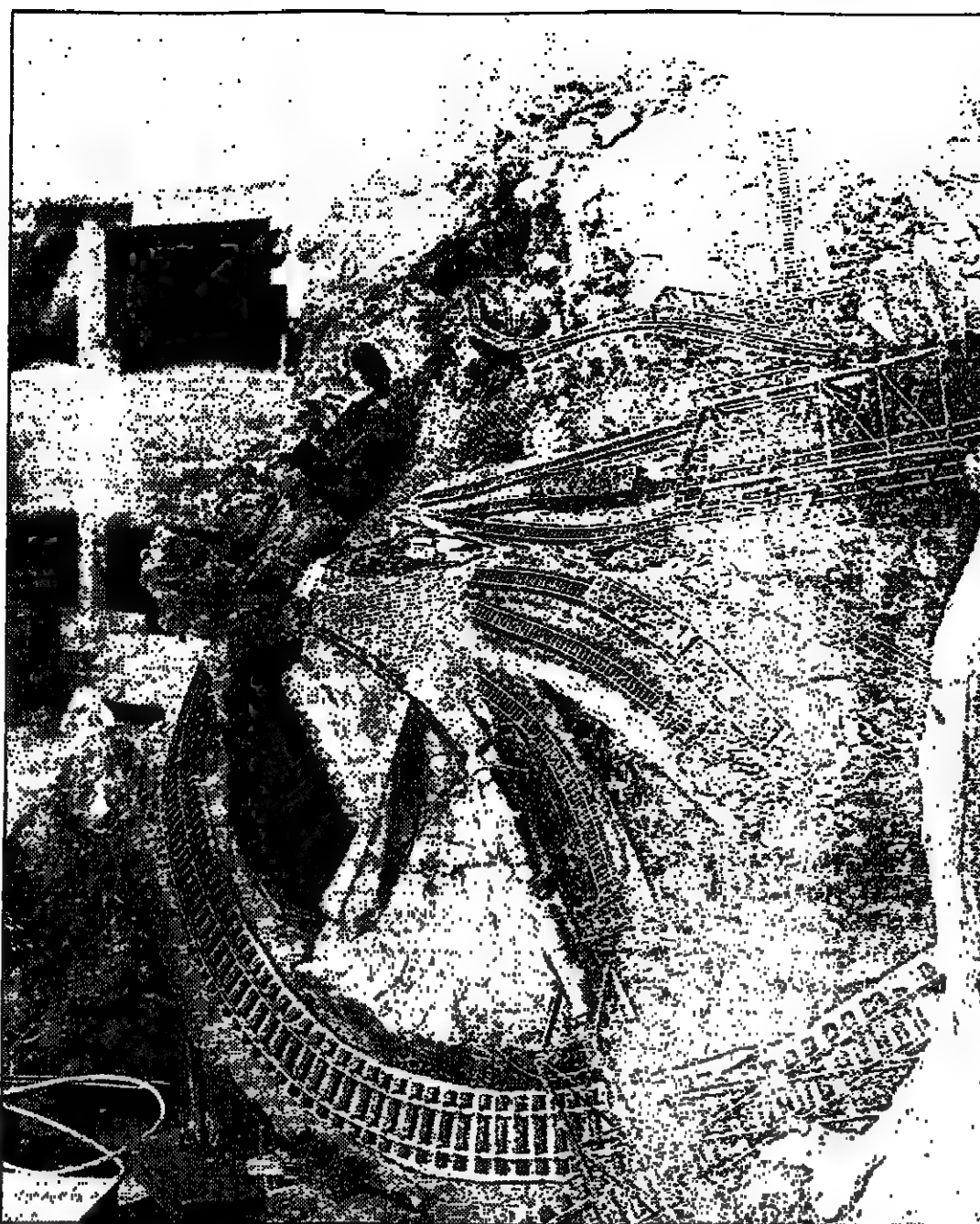
Though none of Andy Goldsworthy's projects is on such a grandiose scale, as an environmental artist making site-specific pieces he runs into some of the same economic problems. His retrospective at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh suggests some of the ways in which he copes with them.

To begin with, some of the works are such as can be replicated in free-standing form. When he went through a phase of studying "on the spot" the techniques of the traditional dry-stone wall, he gained the skills to make sculptures which are like pieces of dry-stone wall, piling stone on stone in various patterns without any bonding material. Some of these are present in Edinburgh. On the other hand, when he took to making similar pieces in the Arctic — out of blocks of ice — it was hardly practicable to carry away any more than a photographic record of the event.

Sometimes there are drawings, rubbings or samples of original materials, which can be put on paper and exhibited. But when the art consists of the precise placing of leaves on water, or the intertwining of living forest branches to make something which might or might not indicate the connecting hand of man, documentation of the fact that it has happened is all that is possible.

Fortunately, with a hefty slice of Botanic Gardens to play with, he has been able to make, or remake, some works of this type for the specific site. Otherwise it often seems as though a book such as the hefty photographic record which has just appeared (Viking, £25) is as good as any gallery exhibition, and rather more convenient. To appreciate Goldsworthy's magical invention and response to the environment, it is really necessary to be there.

The spaces of London's Whitechapel Art Gallery are less wide open, but large enough to be worth turning over for the month to seven artists eager to make installations corresponding to their Seven Obsessions. Four of the artists are British, two American, one French. The French one, Sophie Calle, manages to have two distinct installations included, both consisting of rows of enlarged photographs, one of graves, the other, more interesting, of "Auto-



Chris Burden's "Medusa's Head": One of the installations currently on exhibit in Seven Obsessions

biographical Stories". In this case, the interest is more in the written texts that accompany each picture than the picture itself.

The others include "Medusa's Head", an enormous accretion of old toy-train lines by Chris Burden (which has some undeniable sculptural quality); "Techno-Prison", a room lined with price-code stripes on different-coloured backgrounds by Tim Head; a drawing machine by Angela

Bullock; something rather nasty with 60,000 bees and a bull's skeleton by Mark Thompson; and three toning, flapping, jerking machines by Darrell Viner, representing with vivid humour the "Conversation Piece" of the title.

Where do they all go from here? A world tour, a museum, a private collection, a junkyard? Probably at this point not even the artists know for sure.

Stephen Campbell, Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-629 5161) today, then Aberdeen Art Gallery (0224 646333) Sept 1-22.
Barbara Bloom, Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, W2 (071-723 9072) until Sept 9.
Andy Goldsworthy, Royal Botanic Gardens, Inverleith Row, Edinburgh (031-552 7171) until Oct 28.
Seven Obsessions, Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (071 377 0107) until Sept 30.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

OH CALCUTTA Since Calcutta was founded in 1690 celebrations are perhaps due. The British Library provides a lively selection of views and portraits. The British Library, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-323 7111). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until September 30.

SITE WORKERS: For those who have always wanted to know how it is done, four sculpture students from the Royal Academy Schools — Gary Bowler, Matthew Luck Galpin, Elizabeth Mackinlay and Julie C. Major — are making sculptures on the Economist Plaza for six weeks. Economist Plaza, 25 St James's Street, London SW1 (071-294 4883).

CATALAN: The major show of sculptures by Picasso's great contemporary and friend Julio Gonzalez, recently on show in London, is now in Sheffield. Graves Art Gallery, Surrey Street, Sheffield (0742 734781) Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, until September 16.

FANCY-MAN: The work of Patrick Hayman, semi-primitive, semi-surrealist, wholly mystical and strange, has been rediscovered since his death. A good selection in the South Bank Four Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath (0225 481111) Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, until September 8.

FLORAL TRIBUTE: This new V & A show evokes the art of a group of half-forgotten 18th-century London designers of, primarily, floral patterns, and shows many vivid original samples. Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (071-838 8501). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until October 28.

MINIMAL: The so-called Minimalist artists of the Seventies have in some cases already become modern classics. This show features lines on white by Sol LeWitt, boxes by Donald Judd, and even metal squares on the

floor by Carl Andre, of Tate brick fame. Elegant but not much to it. Nicola Jacobs 9 Cork Street, London W1 (071 437 3888) Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm, until September 1.

POTWORK: There are clearly a lot of talented young potters just 'Setting Out', as the title has it, and they seem to be welcomed by established professionals to judge from the location of this show. Craftsmen Pottery Shop and Gallery, William Blake House, 1 Margaret Street, London W1 (071 437 7805) Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm (Thurs, 10am 7pm), until September 1.

WHEN IN ROME: The British School in Rome has a fine tradition of turning out artists improved and refined by their time abroad. Sixty-three from the last decade will uphold the reputation. Gulbenkian Gallery, Royal College of Art, Kensington Gore, SW7 (071-594 5020) Daily 10am-6pm, ends Tuesday.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

CLASSICAL MUSIC: PROMS

Contrite memory of witchhunt victim

Last week at the Edinburgh Festival, in the warm acoustic of the Usher Hall, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra sounded refined and sure. Cast among the sassanachs and the wider, revealing spaces of the Albert Hall in their two Promenade concerts this week, the orchestra struggled to find form and rarely touched any inspirational peaks.

Lack of inspiration can often be detected by odd technical lapses, and in both concerts there were a few of those. They were mostly small matters: momentarily suspect ensemble, poor string tone, and the occasional slightly suspect woodwind tuning.

Of the six works played, all of them conducted with his usual physical extravagance by Jerzy Maksymiuk, only one gave the impression of being anything really special, though, to be fair, in the first concert Stravinsky's Symphony in Three Movements and Rachmaninov's First Symphony were both adequately gutsy and more or less neat. Happily, the piece which inspired the keenest musicianship was a thoroughly deserving new composition: James MacMillan's *The Confession of Isobel Gowdie*, receiving its first performance as one of this year's Proms commissions.

After the performance, one man, approaching the composer for his autograph, was heard to say that this was the first concert he had been to, and that the music he had just heard was "fantastic". That says much for the accessibility of MacMillan's music, and also much for the continued importance of the Proms: they can still do their missionary work well.

MacMillan's new work is a memorial and an act of contrition for a woman convicted as a witch in 1662 and horribly executed among scenes of mass hysteria. As such, it is probably also intended to stand as a symbolic requiem for all victims of all witch-hunts, and a timely warning to heed and resist the primeval herding instincts that give rise to the oppression of minorities.

The music is unashamedly graphic and makes a strong immediate impact, though whether or not it will stand the test of time is another, as yet unanswered, question. MacMillan, a devout Roman Catholic, has recently and bravely eschewed what he now sees as academic processes — serialism, impersonal controlled aleatoricism, and so on — in favour of music that makes a direct appeal to the emotions.

With that no-nonsense approach it is tempting to place him in the same category as other young British composers, such as Steve Martland. In fact many of this piece's mannerisms — the repeating formulae which, late in the work, compromise its density — reinforce the comparison. So does the first, horrendous climax of the work: a brutal, lonely chord repeated 13 times.

The bleak, lyrical section it savagely crowns, moreover, is based on common chords and firmly rooted pedal notes, another linguistic gesture in favour of instinct and against learned radicalisms. Here, in an ambience of increasing violence, MacMillan weaves into the fabric of his music quotations from a Scottish ballad, plus the "Lux aeterna" from the

plainsong Requiem Mass, and an earlier work of his own. A middle section, full of weird, tortured wailings and aggressive lurches, at once gives re-birth to the "Lux aeterna", and in the final section the exorcism (MacMillan's own description), is manifest in vaguely Messiaen-like syncopations and unisons.

To follow such arresting music by playing the solo part of Sibelius's romantic, quirkily balanced Violin Concerto was a real challenge for Dong-Suk Kang. He gave a technically assured, conventional performance without saying anything particularly arresting about the piece, though also without threatening to stifle the spirit of the work, unlike Maksymiuk in Beethoven's Fourth Symphony.

Michael Roll's brief as soloist in the first concert, in Mozart's E flat major Piano Concerto K. 482, was, because of the nature of the music, arguably more straightforward, though equally difficult to discharge. He merely had to let the music speak for itself.

As the BBC SSO showed, even symphony orchestras experience problems of projection in the giant cavern of the Albert Hall. It was predictable, then, that the light-voiced singers and instrumentalists of Philip Pickett's New London Consort, who gave a 15th- and 16th-century programme called "The Bonfire of Vanities" after the religious reformer Savonarola's anti-burning activities in the late 15th century, would be even more seriously affected.

Moreover, Pickett's care in constantly varying the scoring, both vocal and instrumental, could not hide the fact that much of the music composed by such figures as Francesco Corteccia, Matteo Ramponini and Costanzo Festa for the wedding of Cosimo de Medici and Eleonora of Toledo in 1539 was slight and inadequately varied for uninterrupted concert performance. Corteccia's madrigals for the intermedi of Landi's comedy, *Il commodo*, also given as part of the celebrations, seemed, however, to be of rather more substance. In the second half, the four anonymous carnival songs and the six "art" songs — a number of them extremely *risqué* — at least touched on a few realities lacking in the idyllic lyrics of court.

STEPHEN PETTITT



James MacMillan: premiere

MUSICALS

Turkeys come in from the cold

Some musical flops deserve to be revived, argues Michael Freedland

Ever since Irving Berlin named the philosophy that "there's no business like show business", there have been many willing to believe that West End and Broadway stages are paved with gold. Transatlantic success stories such as Andrew Lloyd Webber's only seem to confirm the belief. Yet, as the perceptive Berlin also noted in his anthem, there have always been plenty of "turkeys that you know will fold". Thanks to the persistence of one man, three of them are currently trotting into the Theatre Museum in Covent Garden.

The museum has become involved in a crusade to resurrect a series of musicals which flopped the first time round. Each Sunday from now until the end of October, a group of professional actors and singers, accompanied by a pianist, will read and sing the entire books and scores of the long-forgotten shows *Fanny*, *Allegro* and *Trouble in Tahiti*.

Older London theatre-goers may remember the first of these, which ran for a year at Drury Lane in 1956 — a miserably short period by Theatre Royal standards. But the other two shows never reached these shores at all.

Ian Marshall Fisher, a 34-year-old actor and singer, is the force behind the revival. "I thought it was a shame that shows could be forgotten largely because of the economic climate years ago," So he assembled actors and

singers drawn from West End and Chichester festival casts, and set about obtaining the rights — no easy task. "In some cases, so much time has elapsed that it is difficult to discover who owns what."

Now, London audiences can work out what went wrong all those years ago. *Fanny*, for instance, was a charming book by Joshua Logan and S. N. Behrman and had a pleasant enough score by Harold Rome. But this was a story of the Marseilles waterfront produced at a time when people wanted musicals to be big, loud and all-American. They went home whistling the smell of fish.

Allegro never reached London, ostensibly, because a year-long American run did not augur well for British success. But what its creators, Rodgers and Hammerstein, did not reveal was that they

did not want competition — least of all from themselves. The show opened to good enough notices on Broadway in 1948, but at precisely the same time *Okla!oma!* was settling into its huge success at Drury Lane. When that was all over, the pair had an even bigger prospect, *South Pacific*, lined up for the theatre. They did not want to diminish business by spreading it thinly over too many shows, especially since the competition at the London Coliseum was Berlin's *Annie Get Your Gun* and then Porter's *Kiss Me Kate*.

As a result, the British public never heard the songs from *Allegro*, even the ballad "A Fellow Needs A Girl" which stayed in the American hit parade for months, since Rodgers and Hammerstein, Berlin, Porter and most of the other top theatre composers refused to allow their music to

be heard in advance of their productions. Nor did Britain ever see Leonard Bernstein's 1976 show about the White House, *1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*, even though it starred the British actress Patricia Routledge, playing all eight first ladies. "I'm not surprised," she says. "The book and lyrics were by Alan Jay Lerner, and it was the mismanagement of the century. Lerner couldn't get it together, and Lenny had to fit it into his conducting schedule."

Bernstein still had the sound of his *On The Town* triumph ringing in his ears when he wrote *Trouble in Tahiti*, yet that show has never been popular with audiences. Fisher thinks it worth including this "musical diversification" of suburban life in his Theatre Museum series because of its classy music and its unusual dramatic approach.

Much better successes on Broadway also failed the export test. There was Rodgers and Hammerstein's 1953 *Me and Juliet*, and *Pipe Dream* two years later. André Previn's show *Coco*, written with Alan Jay Lerner in the late 1960s, never came to London either, despite having Katharine Hepburn starring as Coco Chanel and Cecil Beaton providing the costumes. Previn is surprised. "Once Kate Hepburn left after a year, business went down to nothing, even though she was replaced by Danielle Darrieux — which was the first time I ever heard my songs sung properly. But the truth of the matter was, it wasn't a very good show."

● *Fanny* will be performed at the Theatre Museum at open this Sunday (071-836 2330). *Allegro* will be performed on Sundays in September, and *Trouble in Tahiti* on Sundays in October.



New York success, but London failure: *Fanny* in 1954

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BBC
6.00 Cee-fax
6.30 Breakfast News with Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando 8.56 Regional News and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 But First This... Children's entertainment beginning with Belle and Sebastian (1) 9.25 Heartbeat. Tony Hart and Margot Wilson are joined by Alison Miller to explain new approaches to making pictures (1). (Cee-fax)
10.00 News and weather followed by Double Dare (1) 10.30 Playdays (1)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Poetry with the pupils of the Moor Park High School in Preston
11.00 News and weather followed by Our House. American family drama series. 11.55 The O Zone. Music magazine
12.00 News and weather followed by The Garden Party. Why do people laugh? Do men and women laugh at different things? Plus a report on things in sport, and the new season of 1990 12.55 Regional News and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather
1.35 Neighbours. (Cee-fax)
1.50 Clothes Show Classics. This week, Selma Scott has the task of dressing Dame Edna Everage for her debut in Madame Tussaud's
2.20 Racing from Goodwood. Includes the Schröder Investment Management Stakes (2.40); the Teacher's Whisky Prestige Stakes (3.10); the Sussex Grandstand Stakes (3.40). Introduced by Julian Wilson with commentary by Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lindley and John Hamner

4.00 Lifetime. Robert Kilroy-Silk appeals on behalf of Homes for Homeless People Trust
4.10 Paw Paws (1) 4.35 Gentle Ben (1). (Cee-fax)
5.00 Newsround
5.05 The Lowdown: The Master of the the Real-life stories about children, told by children. This week, fourteen-year-old Matthew Sadler's bid to become Britain's youngest international chess master. (Cee-fax)
5.35 Neighbours (1). (Cee-fax) Northern Ireland: Sportsworld; 5.40 Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with John Humphreys and Moira Stuart. Weather
6.30 Regional News Magazines. Wales: Wales Today; Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Wogan. The guests are Nicholas Clegg and Mandy Patinkin
7.30 Film: Laura Lansing Slept Here (1988). Agreeable made-for-television comedy starring the doughty Katharine Hepburn as a best-selling novelist who is criticised by her agent for having lost touch with her readers. Responding to the challenge, she invites herself into the home of an unsuspecting family, changing their lives forever. Directed by George Schaefer. (Cee-fax)
8.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Gough. Weather
9.30 The Paradise Club: Sins of the Fathers. Penultimate episode. (Cee-fax)
10.20 Omnibus at the Proms: Britten's First Symphony. Sarah Dunant introduces a study of John's Saito Kinen Orchestra. All the players are ex-pupils of Professor Hiroko Saito, who helped revolutionise the teaching of modern European music in post-war Japan. Tonight's performance is conducted by Seiji Ozawa



A baton to Brahms: Seiji Ozawa (10.20pm)

11.20 Film: The Stepford Wives (1974). © CHOICE: Bryan Forbes' American film has not received the acclaim they have deserved. His first Hollywood venture, *King Rat*, has been a consistently underdeveloped piece, while *The Stepford Wives* has tended to live in the shadow of Roman Polanski's *Rosemary's Baby*, which came from the same literary source. In *Levin*, and has a not dissimilar theme. Katharine Ross plays a New York photographer persuaded by her husband to move to a small village in Connecticut. She gradually comes to wish she had not. The plot, ordered society index tensions in which the women are domestic zombies and the husbands are quietly plotting to keep them that way. As a feminist tale, *The Stepford Wives* could have been more subtly handled but there is still much to savour in William Goldman's screenplay and Forbes' careful direction
1.15am Weather

6.45 Open University. Science: From Snowdon to the Sea. Ends 7.10
9.00 Mastermind 1980 with Magnus Magnusson (1)
9.30 Cricket: Third Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the first day's play between England and India from the Oval
10.00 Amazon: The Last Frontier. The Indians of Brazil's Amazon region are slowly being threatened by rampant development. But they are fighting back and, in this programme, they speak in defence of their threatened lands and way of life. Robin Ellis narrates (1)
10.50 Cricket: Third Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the whole of the morning's play on the second day's play between England and India from the Oval
1.05 Weekend Outlook. A preview of this weekend's Open University programmes
1.10 Town Portraits: Beverley. East Yorkshire. John Grundy presents a portrait of the historic market town, including the special all-encompassing North Bar Without and the Minister (1)
1.20 Greenpeace. Greenpeace tries to help its wither knitting (1)
1.35 Cricket: Third Test. Tony Lewis introduces live coverage of the whole of the afternoon's play between England and India from the Oval, including at 2.30 and 3.00 the weather, and at 3.50 News and weather. Regional news and weather
6.30 Show Jumping. Featuring the Silk Cut Derby Trial from Hickstead. The famous course includes the Devil's

Dyke and the Derby Bank. Introduced by David Vine with commentary by Raymond Brooke-Ward and Stephen Haskley
7.45 What the Papers Say. The London Evening Standard's Peter McKay with a wry view of the past week's events as they were reported in the national press
8.00 The Roux Brothers: Vegetables and Salads. More culinary tips from the award-winning chefs, with the emphasis on the potato, the mainstay of the British diet (1)
8.30 Gardener's World visits the fourth National Garden Festival at Gatehead which includes the first display outside London by the Royal Horticultural Society
9.00 Naked Video. Patchy and over-mannered, but occasionally funny comedy sketches. This week, getting back to nature, a hamster's love-life, and why the prisoners in *Cell Block H* should remain incarcerated. (Cee-fax)
9.30 Acting: High Comedy
© CHOICE: Maria Adlon rounds off the present series with a lively session on high comedy, with examples from Coward, Wilde, Sheridan and Congreve. Her preface remarks about the importance of the characters being bound by the manners and conventions of the period are a misleading guide to what follows, which has more to do with technique than content. In an articulate and well-ordered discourse, Adlon divides the subject four ways (and-text, naturalism, energy and wit) and calls the session *High Comedy* and gets her actors to demonstrate each. For the casual thespian, who takes what he or she sees more or less for granted, these interactive sessions reveal not

only the hard graft that goes into the building of a performance but the spark that transforms a routine reading into a vibrant one. The process is instinctively revealed in a scene from *Private Lives* when the two main actors have finished with it has attained something close to brilliance



Highlights of comedy: Peter Snow (1.15pm)

10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow
11.15 Weather
11.20 Edinburgh Nights: Tin Flah. Starring Emma Thompson and Jon Morrison. From the Edinburgh International Film Festival, the debut of writer and director Paul Morrison looks at the impact of nuclear submarines on local communities around the Holy Loch base on the Clyde
12.10am Cricket: Third Test. Richie Benaud introduces highlights of the day's play between England and India from the Oval. Ends 12.45

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am
9.25 He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (1) 9.50 Thames News and weather
9.55 Inspector Gadget (1) 10.25 Vicky the Viking 10.50 News headlines
10.55 Treasure Island in Outer Space 11.50 Thames News and weather
11.55 Elmer Fudd. Cartoon 12.05 Rainbow (1)
12.25 Home and Away 12.55 Thames News and weather
1.00 News at One with John Suchet. Weather
1.20 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: The Hunted. Second and concluding part of the thriller starring Edward Woodward and Kate Trotter. Attempting to stop Drummond from killing innocent people, Margaret comes to realise that he is locked with a different kind of suicide
1.50 A Country Practice
2.20 Moneywise. Frank Bough supplies more tips on money-management, concentrating on investing in the unusual. Also just how much does a white wedding cost?
2.50 What's My Line? Angela Ripston hosts the long-running guess-the-occupation panel game. Joining

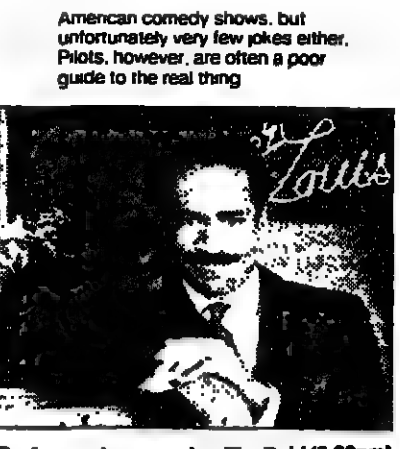
resident captains Jilly Cooper and Roy Hudd are Simon Bowman and Denise Stephenson 3.15 News headlines 3.20 Thames News
3.25 The Young Doctors
3.55 Johnny Ball Reveals All 4.15 Garfield and Friends 4.45 Round the Bend (1) 5.10 Home and Away (1) News with Sue Carpenter. Weather
5.55 Six O'Clock Live, including LWT News and weather
7.00 The \$64,000 Question. Will Diane Geen, a shop-owner from Manchester, walk away from the final show in the present series with the deflated monetary prize? Your host is Bob Monkhouse. (Oracle)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
8.00 Murder. She Wrote. Murder in the Afternoon. Angela Lansbury stars as crime-writer Jessica Fletcher, who, despite being stalked by death wherever she goes, is still much in demand as an amateur sleuth. A real murder on the set of a television soap opera casts suspicion on Jessica's accused rapist.
9.00 Internal Affairs. Continuing the exciting sequel to the mini-series *Deathwatch*, shown three years ago. Detective Frank Janek is distracted from his efforts to prove that corruption is rife in the New York force by an unsolved murder case. Starring

Richard Crenna and Kate Capshaw. Continued after the news (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and Julia Somerville. Weather 10.30 LWT News and weather
10.35 Internal Affairs. The conclusion of the police drama. (Oracle)
11.20 Jake and the Fatman. Body and Soul. Crime series starring William Conrad and Joe Penny
12.15am We Got It Made. On the Ropes. American sitcom. Mickey and an old school friend go to an audition, only to discover that it is not for an acting part but for a place in a female wrestling team 12.45 Wrestling
1.45 The World of Wally Gubbins. Sky-diver Gubbins continues his search for the fantastic in a sport he modestly claims to have revolutionised
2.00 Cinematronics
2.30 Police Precinct: Access to Drugs. French police drama
3.30 World Skiing
4.30 Crusade in Europe: Review (b/w). The final instalment of the series based on General Dwight D. Eisenhower's wartime memoirs examines the main events of second world war. The rise of Nazism, the burning of London, the planning and execution of the D-Day landings, the liberation of Paris and the Battle of the Bulge
5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Noah's Ark: Andean Volcanoes. A look at Chile's 55 active volcanoes.
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Film of stunning natural landscapes accompanied by music
11.00 As It Happens. Michael Groth and camera crew continue to record events and talk to people on the high roads and low roads of Scotland
12.00 Countryside in Extension: A Natural World. Series examining the effect of modern technology on the countryside. Howard Newby asks whether wildlife conservation and modern farming can exist in harmony (1)
12.30 Business Daily. Financial news
1.00 Sesame Street. (1)
2.00 The Manager: Effective Marketing. Open College series on modern management. Exploding the myth that marketing is an unimportant activity, the programme traces the recent history of three very different British companies. (Teletext)
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Newmarket. John Oakley introduces today's races, including the Breheny Hcap (2.35); the Reflex & Compag Hcap (3.05); the Hopetown Stakes (3.35); and the Gordon Macdon Stakes (4.05). The race commentator is Graham Gould
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game
5.00 I Love Lucy: Ricardo's Change Apartments (b/w) starring Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz. Lucy tries every trick she knows to get Ricky to move to a larger apartment
5.30 Mother and Son: The Morning After. The last in the Australian comedy series about the tribulations of Maggie, an elderly widow, and her son Arthur (1)
6.00 © CHOICE: Channel 4's new music, fashion and entertainment magazine is infused with a relentless pop video style which seems totally appropriate to its targeted audience of 16 to 24

year olds. The presentation, fast and restless, is in the hands of Terry Christian, a chirpy northerner in the Andy Kershaw mould, and Amanda de Cadenet, who is more of the hockey sticks school. The format is a mixture of live and recorded items, with performances from rock bands and interviews with film stars, including, in tonight's show, Rosanna Arquette and Arnold Schwarzenegger. As a sample of things to come, the promo tape offers Amanda at a motor cycle rally, *EastEnders* actress Michelle Collins talking to Terry on the studio's purple settee and how to impersonate Kyle Minogue in three easy lessons. An intriguing quiz item reveals that of six stars shown on the screen, only Zsa Zsa Gabor has a full set of fingers and thumbs
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. News
7.50 Book Choice. Military historian John Keegan reviews Antony Beevor's *Inside the British Army*, a study of the professional soldier. (Teletext)
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext)
8.30 The Corrie Show. The Great Exchange. Continuing to chart the history of the Mediterranean, its people and traditions, this episode travels to once great centres of commerce such as Delos and Carthage. Narrated by Andrew Sachs. (Teletext)
9.00 Frank's Place.
© CHOICE: Channel 4's latest foray into the American sitcom market has come up with a rum offering about a black Boston professor (Tim Reid) who inherits a New Orleans restaurant from a father he barely knew and decides after initial reluctance to make a go of it. Tonight's pilot takes us little further than this, while hinting at a culture clash between the sedate New Englander and the more extrovert folk down south. The promising supporting cast, surely ripe for further development, includes the mistress of the funeral parlour and her gorgeous daughter, and a dodgy preacher. There is no studio audience, a pleasant change in



Professor down yonder: Tim Reid (8.00pm)

9.30 A Gardener's Guide: Climbing Plants. Return of the perennially popular gardening series with John Huxtable and the Wisley gardeners offering practical help and advice to horticulturalists at all levels of competence. The series starts with the first of two programmes about upwardly mobile flowers: how to plant climbers (2.35); and how to look after them. (Teletext)
10.00 The Golden Girls. Sick and Tired. As sharp as ever, the Miami roomers return for a new series with the first of a two-part story. Dorothy is hit with an illness which leaves her confused and exhausted. Meanwhile, Blanche dares to write a romantic novel. (Teletext)
10.30 Roseanne: Fathers and Daughters. Roseanne Barr as the wise-cracking blue-collar mother
11.00 Edinburgh Live. A live show from the Edinburgh Festival featuring the best of this year's comedy and cabaret performers
12.30am The Twilight Zone: The Hitchhiker (b/w). Take another trip into the world of space, time and the imagination
1.00 The Word. Shown at 6pm. Ends 2.00

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW
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Ceausescu's fall 'was plotted long before the revolution'

From TIM JUDAH in BUCHAREST

THE existence of an organised conspiracy "prevented a civil war" and saved "tens of thousands" of lives during the Romanian revolution, according to two of its key actors.

In a far-reaching interview published yesterday with General Nicolae Militaru and Silviu Brucan, they revealed how a network of anti-Ceausescu cells had been built up since 1980, how Romania's current President Iliescu had been involved and how, when last December's revolution began, their organisation and preparations succeeded in "neutralising" 25,000 Securitate troops.

President Iliescu, Silviu Brucan, the chief strategist of the National Salvation Front, and other key figures in the Christmas revolution have consistently denied reports, first carried by *The Times* in January, that any long-standing conspiracy existed to seize power. Previously, it was claimed that the ruling National Salvation Front was only formed after last December's uprising.

Yesterday's interviews confirm suspicions that there was far more to the events of last Christmas than has officially been revealed. Surprisingly, it was published in *Adevartul*, normally a staunch supporter of the government. In their interview, General Militaru, a former defence minister, and Mr Brucan describe how the original anti-Ceausescu nucleus had been set up in the mid-1970s. They claim that from 1983 a network of three-person cells began to be created and that it had members in the Securitate, the Communist party and the military.

According to their account, a coup was planned for October 1984, but that it was betrayed. They claim that at that point they had chosen Mr Iliescu as "the best man to replace Ceausescu".

General Militaru and Mr Brucan say that at that time they were not yet thinking of a dismantling of the old communist order. However, at one point in their story they say that Mr Iliescu "had his reservations about any action taken outside the system. That determined us to exclude him from the cause. However, after that and during the last few years he demonstrated that he had nothing to do with communist dogma insisting on the necessity of changing the system in its entirety". President Iliescu was yesterday on holiday and unavailable to comment on these allegations.

General Militaru and Mr Brucan named several key people that became part of the conspiracy. They say, for example, that the doors to the central committee building and former royal palace, which were stormed during the revolution, were opened because General Militaru had contacted

the man in charge of security for the building who was a member of the cell. They also say that before the revolution began a so-called military resistance committee had been set up which included "almost 20 generals and a large number of officers".

General Militaru says that when he became the first revolutionary minister of defence on December 22 he was able to put these men in control of the army and thus secure its loyalty to the revolution. Mr Brucan said: "The notion that the army made a spontaneous 180-degree turn during the revolution is completely false."

With regard to the dreaded Securitate, the two make a distinction between its 25,000 soldiers and its other "specialised units". They say that having "collaborated" with the chief of the Securitate troops since 1986 they were successfully "neutralised" on December 22. If this had not happened, General Militaru claimed that "a bloodbath would have resulted".

By contrast, General Militaru and Mr Brucan say that the revolution was resisted by some 4,000 men belonging to special Securitate units. They say that after the revolution some escaped "through Hungary and Turkey", while many of those who were arrested were released. They do not explain by whom or why.

The interviewees also discuss the alleged involvement of Arabs during last December's fighting. They say that "about 30, mostly Palestinians" had taken part and that the survivors left the country immediately after the revolution. They had been doing military training in Romania.

Referring to the possible involvement of the Soviet Union during the revolution, General Militaru and Mr Brucan say that while fully informed about what was happening in Romania, the Soviet government had told its diplomats not to interfere. However, Mr Brucan said that Moscow accorded him protection in the last few years by signalling to President Ceausescu that it had an interest in him. Mr Brucan, once a leading figure in the Romanian Communist party, was under house arrest in the last few years of the Ceausescu regime for publicly opposing the dictator.

While yesterday's revelations make it clear that the greater part of the story of the Romanian revolution has yet to be told, it may also serve to damage President Iliescu's credibility. For even if he was not intimately involved with the conspirators, the interviewees imply that in the past he had been selected as a suitable figurehead rather than as a potential leader in his own right.

Populist myth dispelled, page 8



Holding back the years: Harry Whiteside, Lake District supply manager for North West Water, looks out across Thirlmere, the Lakeland reservoir, which is 100 years old this month. The Victorian stone dam, which shoulders 9,000 million gallons of water, slakes Manchester's thirst with a daily delivery of 45 million gallons. Work is under way to allow automatic water transfer and so avoid staff having to drive many miles to turn a Victorian valve and then telephone the result back to headquarters.

Police warn women after motorway rape

By DANIEL TREISMAN

WOMEN whose cars break down on motorways were yesterday advised to use emergency telephones "at all costs" after a woman was raped as she went in search of help.

Police were hunting at least two men who attacked the victim, aged 31, after her car broke down on the M20 near Maidstone, Kent. In the dark, she had climbed a steep slope to Station Road, Aylesford, to look for a public telephone.

As she reached the top, a light-coloured saloon car with a black rear spoiler pulled up carrying at least two men who offered to help. A police spokesman said: "She declined and walked 400 yards to use a phone box to ring for help."

As she was returning, the men stopped her again and raped her. Kent police said women should always use the emergency phones, positioned a mile apart on motorways, rather than going in search of public call-boxes.

Inspector Mervyn Williams said: "The calls go straight through to our operations room and are dealt with as an emergency." If the woman is alone, the 24-hour motorway patrol is dis-

patched immediately.

The AA yesterday advised women to ensure their cars were regularly serviced and maintained, but added that if they broke down they should use emergency telephones "at all costs".

Women motorists' fears were heightened by the roadside murder two years ago of Marie Wilks, who was pregnant, as she used a motorway emergency telephone. She was stabbed by a drunk nightclub bouncer, Edward Browning.

Last month a young woman whose car had broken down on the A1(M) near Leamington, Hertfordshire, was attacked and indecently assaulted by a man who had offered help. Her screams frightened him off.

In January, a woman driver who tried to help another woman whose car had apparently broken down in Aveley, Essex, was knocked to the ground and robbed by two men. A few days earlier, a young woman in Tipton, near Diss, Norfolk, was driven off by two men in a car, who then hit her in the face. A passing car frightened them off.

Judicious choice cuts court's male dominance

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE almost exclusively male preserve of the High Court bench is to benefit from the appointment from today of Joyanne Bracewell, QC, to the ranks of the justices of the Family Division.

The appointment of Judge Bracewell, aged 56, at present a circuit judge on the Western circuit, will bring the complement of High Court women judges to two out of 84. The other women are Mrs Justice Booth.

The Lord Chancellor's Department has been concerned about the shortage of women judges and recently conducted a special tawil for the circuit bench. The result was an three appointments, giving a female complement of 19 out of a 425 total at this level.

Judge Bracewell, who has played a key role in preparing judges for applying the new Children Act, said: "A lot of women are now coming in to the Bar, but it takes time for them to work through to the senior levels."

Iraqi president puts on a friendly face for West

Continued from page 1

He asked the hostages if they had any questions and one middle-aged lady who spoke with a north-eastern accent said: "We want our families to know that we are safe."

The president answered: "We shall make sure that your messages shall reach your families in England." He added that they could take photographs and they would be sent back to Britain and that he would instruct his staff to make sure this was possible.

Another woman called Elena asked when life would return to normal in Baghdad. She said she was worried about her children missing school when the term begins in September. "If you are still here when schooling begins we are going to exert unusual efforts to make sure that the schoolchildren are not deprived of their continued schooling and we will send experts from our education ministry," he replied.

The cameras showed a toddler playing under a table but even the young boy looked unhappy and a young girl with long blonde hair sat anxiously between two adults on a sofa. Glances were constantly exchanged between the worried Westerners. One soldier in the

background parted one of the British boys on the head. Another soldier took notes throughout the interview.

President Saddam said all his "guests" were playing a role in preventing war. "Your presence now in this sort of atmosphere is not a source of pleasure to us. This does not make us happy. What would make us happy would be to see you back in your own countries."

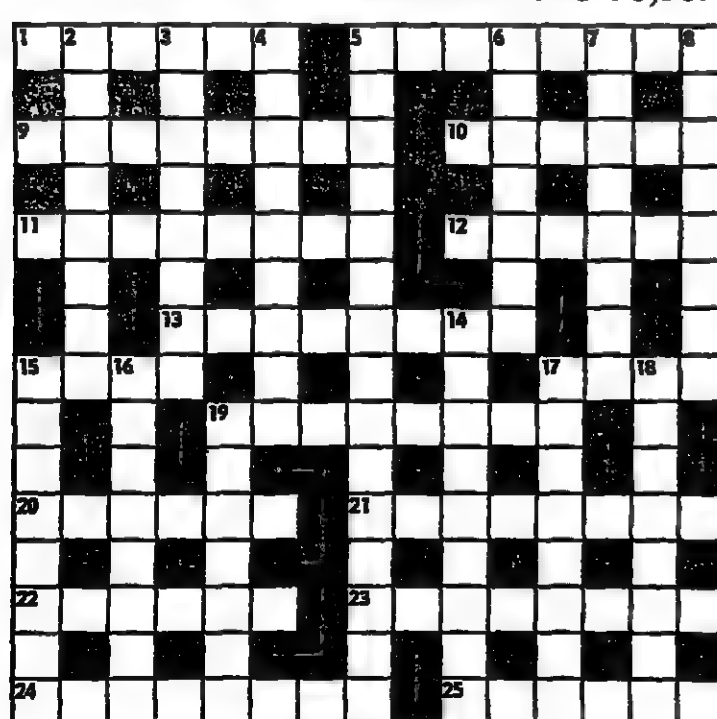
He added: "I am happy to be seen with you now, even though I would wish to have met you under different circumstances. I am going to send a woman to see that you get clothing and make sure that you get all you need."

He tried to explain the invasion of Kuwait and said: "How would you feel if part of England was cut away from your country? Wouldn't you find that harmful? I am sure you would deplore this. It is the same thing for Iraqis."

At the end of the discussion the president asked everyone in the room to gather round for a group photograph.

There appeared to be about 20 Western people. He shook hands with each adult and said: "If I was not so busy I would have liked to have lunch with you."

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,381



- ACROSS
- Save horse from boat person (6).
 - College receives quibble from Bishop (8).
 - Copperfield - unfailing delight (8).
 - Catherine was at home here, but so poorly dressed? (6).
 - Stole a tiny bit from competition (4,4).
 - Annual payment to a mother, for example (6).
 - Legal action on underwear that doesn't cover the spine (4-4).
 - Chances of starting off with three children? (4).
 - Outsiders to the subject create examination (4).
 - Cheap fare here from Sandwich by rail (5-3).
 - Watch the horse (6).

- DOWN
- One is said to grow increasingly fond of such a person (8).
 - Recruit has to do and die - beheaded (6).
 - Bulb in garden plot is shrivelled (8).
 - Monster is around? Not now (8).
 - New weapon, limited in range (6).

- DOWN
- Circular for each person present (3-5).
 - Big girl finds eating difficult on ship (8).
 - Instruction to be given to a dunce, 1 order (9).
 - Place of audience has bearing on type of music (8,7).
 - Police on time for the total distance (7).
 - Great tie, knotted as ornament (8).
 - Sorry for Mary Magdalene (8).
 - Perhaps Bach fell a victim to bowing technique (9).
 - Be even more wicked in university - receive the cane (3-5).
 - Business area of Newry? (8).
 - He digs for old plate (8).
 - Say nothing, weighed down by exceptional conscience (8).
 - Sort of coin - a shilling (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,380

CRIBSED ENMASSE
H W E O A A E L R
A W F L O A S T A S I D E
S L G T E N N C
T O U C H W O O D W I O N C
E A C E A M P L I F I E R
W O M E N C O T E L S
G R E E N D E L T E P O C H
A C A I E S A
S C U P E B U T T E R C U P
F N C A F F N E E
I N C O G N I T O N Y L O N
R A U L U E U E Q
E M P A N E L R E I S S U E

WORD-WATCHING

LITERARY JARGON
By Philip Howard

- HYPOPHORA
a. Asking oneself a question
b. Initiating an opponent
c. Extrapolating an argument
- FASCROLLA
a. Baby talk
b. Acronym
c. Rhetorical exaggeration
- QUINE SENTENCE
a. An antilogy
b. A self-referential sentence
c. A reversible phrase
- INTERCALATION
a. The conjugation of tenses
b. Interpolation
c. A pause for effect

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks
C. London (within N & S Circs.) 731
M-ways/roads M4-M1 732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T. 733
M-ways/roads Dartford T.-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National traffic and roadworks
National motorways 737
West Country 738
Wales 739
Midlands 740
East Anglia 741
North-west England 742
North-east England 743
Scotland 744
Northern Ireland 745

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WEATHER

Mists in central and southern England and in Wales will clear, leaving a dry day with sunshine. Northern Ireland, northern England and southern and central Scotland will be cloudy, with showers. North-eastern England will be dry and bright. Northern Scotland will be mostly dry with some sunny periods. Weekend outlook: most places will be dry and very warm, with sunny periods. Thunder showers may develop.

ABROAD

MONDAY: t=tr; dr=dry; cl=cloud; lg=light; s=sun; st=stale; sn=snow; h=har; co=cloud; r=rain

	C	F	C	F
Algeria	25	84	25	84
Australia	25	84	25	84
Austria	25	84	25	84
Belgium	25	84	25	84
Canada	25	84	25	84
Denmark	25	84	25	84
France	25	84	25	84
Germany	25	84	25	84
Greece	25	84	25	84
Holland	25	84	25	84
India	25	84	25	84
Italy	25	84	25	84
Japan	25	84	25	84
Kenya	25	84	25	84
Malaysia	25	84	25	84
Marocco	25	84	25	84
Norway	25	84	25	84
Poland	25	84	25	84
Portugal	25	84	25	84
Romania	25	84	25	84
Russia	25	84	25	84
Spain	25	84	25	84
Sweden	25	84	25	84
Switzerland	25	84	25	84
Taiwan	25	84	25	84
Tanzania	25	84	25	84
Thailand	25	84	25	84
Tunisia	25	84	25	84
USA	25	84	25	84
Uganda	25	84	25	84
Ukraine	25	84	25	84
Yugoslavia	25	84	25	84

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
London	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Manchester	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Birmingham	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Cardiff	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Edinburgh	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Glasgow	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Newcastle	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Sheffield	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Southampton	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Wolverhampton	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0858 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701

West London 702

West Midlands 703

West of England 704

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 705

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 706

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 707

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 708

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 709

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 710

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 711

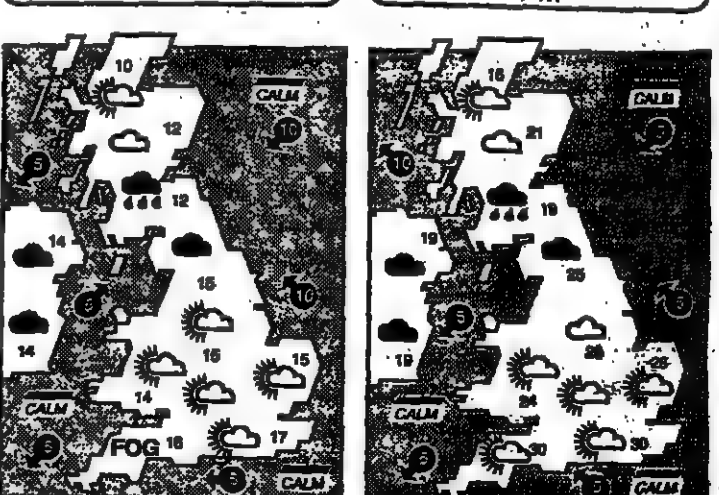
Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 712

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 713

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 714

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 715

AM PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.05 pm to 8.01 am
Edinburgh 8.28 pm to 8.05 am
Manchester 8.18 pm to 8.05 am
Preston 8.24 pm to 8.05 am

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c. cloud; f. fog; r. rain; s. sun.

London 20.0 c, 68.0 f
Edinburgh 14.0 c, 57.0 f
Manchester 18.0 c, 64.0 f
Preston 19.0 c, 66.0 f

First Quarter August 25

HIGH TIDES

TODAY

London Bridge 5.03 AM HT 7.1 PM HT 7.1

Abbeville 4.05 AM HT 6.0 PM HT 6.0

Avonmouth 10.25 AM HT 10.30 PM HT 10.30

Belfast 1.56 AM HT 3.7 PM HT 3.7

Cardiff 10.13 AM HT 10.24 PM HT 10.24

Devonport 8.26 AM HT 9.04 PM HT 9.04

Dover 1.56 AM HT 2.13 PM HT 2.13

Edinburgh 4.05 AM HT 6.0 PM HT 6.0

Glasgow 3.37 AM HT 4.14 PM HT 4.14

Harwich 2.54 AM HT 3.04 PM HT 3.04

Hull 1.08 AM HT 2.29 PM HT 2.29

London 5.03 AM HT 7.1 PM HT 7.1

Manchester 8.28 AM HT 10.30 PM HT 10.30

Newcastle 1.56 AM HT 3.7 PM HT 3.7

Portsmouth 10.25 AM HT 10.30 PM HT 10.30

Sheffield 1.56 AM HT 3.7 PM HT 3.7

Southampton 10.25 AM HT 10.30 PM HT 10.30

Wolverhampton 1.56 AM HT 3.7 PM HT 3.7

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 716

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 717

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 718

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 719

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 720

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Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 726

Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 727

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Wiltshire, Dorset & W. Somerset 731

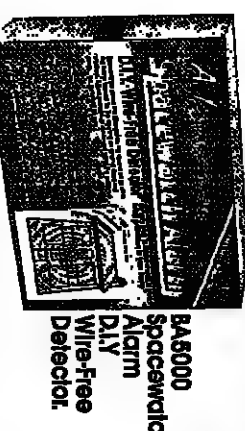
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ALARM SYSTEMS



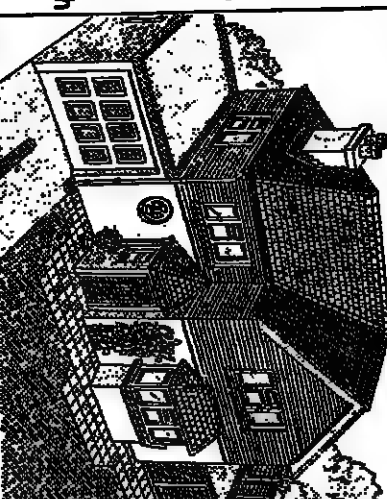
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Electronic Security System
£51.95



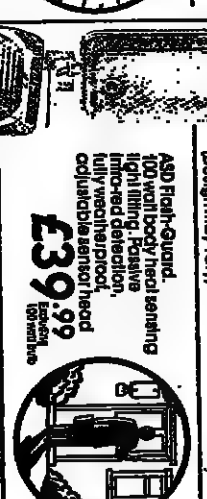
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Medioburglar are carried out by cameras with an eye for an opportunity. Leave a door or a window open and you're inviting trouble. So before you go on holiday, pop down to B&Q for everything you need to secure your property.



SECURITY LIGHTING
Add the look of security to your home with our range of security lighting. From the classic to the modern, we have everything you need to protect your property.
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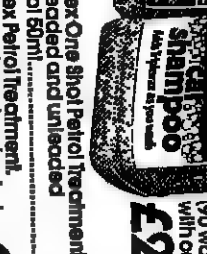


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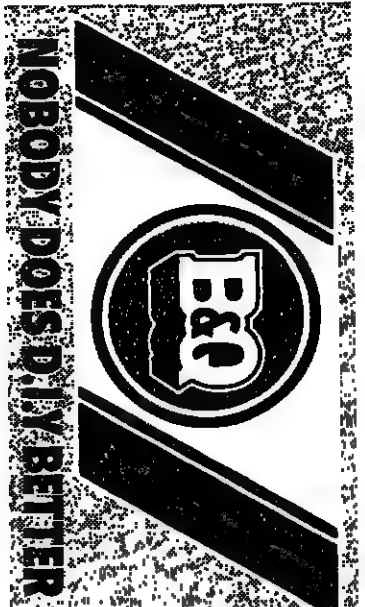
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 22mm.....(Pack of 10) **£1.99**
Copper Elbows 15mm.....(Pack of 10) **£2.79**
 22mm.....(Pack of 10) **£2.99**
Copper Tees 15mm.....(Pack of 10) **£2.99**
 22mm.....(Pack of 10) **£3.49**

COMPRESSION FITTINGS

Compression Couplings 15mm.....(Pack of 5) **£3.99**
 22mm.....(Pack of 5) **£3.99**
Compression Elbows 15mm.....(Pack of 5) **£3.99**
 22mm.....(Pack of 5) **£3.99**
Compression Tees 15mm.....(Pack of 3) **£3.79**
 22mm.....(Pack of 3) **£3.79**

COPPER TUBE

Copper Tube 15mm x 2m length..... **£2.39**
 15mm x 3m length..... **£3.99**
 22mm x 2m length..... **£4.99**
 22mm x 3m length..... **£6.79**
 22mm x 4m length..... **£31.99**
 22mm x 5m length..... **£64.99**
 (Pack of 10)
 Sizes may vary by store

CENTRAL HEATING PUMP & CLOCK BOX

Eurocam Central Heating Pump (bare, no union)..... **£29.99**
Survic Clockbox II..... **£99.95**

ARCTIC PIPE FREEZER KIT

Arctic Spray 2 Pipe Freezer Starter Kit. Once frozen, enables you to extend or repair pipe work without ditching or turning off mains. 200g..... **£6.99**
 500g..... **£9.99**

ARCTIC SPRING

Fermox Liquid Corrosion Proofers MB-1 1 Gallon..... **£9.99**

RADIATORS

RECOMMENDED ROOM TEMPERATURES
 INVERSE ROOM TEMPERATURE CONTROL (IRTC)
 Heat output reqd. to obtain req'd. room temp. (BTL per cu ft.)

Room size to be heated (cu ft.)	18°C (64°F)	20°C (68°F)	22°C (72°F)
800	435	535	635
1000	535	635	735
1200	635	735	835
1400	735	835	935
1600	835	935	1035
1800	935	1035	1135
2000	1035	1135	1235
2200	1135	1235	1335
2400	1235	1335	1435
2600	1335	1435	1535
2800	1435	1535	1635
3000	1535	1635	1735
3200	1635	1735	1835
3400	1735	1835	1935
3600	1835	1935	2035
3800	1935	2035	2135
4000	2035	2135	2235
4200	2135	2235	2335
4400	2235	2335	2435
4600	2335	2435	2535
4800	2435	2535	2635
5000	2535	2635	2735
5200	2635	2735	2835
5400	2735	2835	2935
5600	2835	2935	3035
5800	2935	3035	3135
6000	3035	3135	3235
6200	3135	3235	3335
6400	3235	3335	3435
6600	3335	3435	3535
6800	3435	3535	3635
7000	3535	3635	3735
7200	3635	3735	3835
7400	3735	3835	3935
7600	3835	3935	4035
7800	3935	4035	4135
8000	4035	4135	4235
8200	4135	4235	4335
8400	4235	4335	4435
8600	4335	4435	4535
8800	4435	4535	4635
9000	4535	4635	4735
9200	4635	4735	4835
9400	4735	4835	4935
9600	4835	4935	5035
9800	4935	5035	5135
10000	5035	5135	5235

NOTE: For exposed rooms, northern aspect, 3.5m high, use guide on p. 10. For other rooms, use guide on p. 10. For rooms with high ceilings, use guide on p. 10. For rooms with high ceilings, use guide on p. 10.

FINMETAL HIGH OUTPUT CONNECTOR RADIATORS

Now select your radiators to get your required heat output (B.T.U.)

LENGTH (inches)	B.T.U.	WATTS	PRICE
40mm (approx)	18.5	685	£12.95
50mm (approx)	23.5	865	£15.95
60mm (approx)	28.5	1045	£18.95
70mm (approx)	33.5	1225	£21.95
80mm (approx)	38.5	1405	£24.95
90mm (approx)	43.5	1585	£27.95
100mm (approx)	48.5	1765	£30.95
110mm (approx)	53.5	1945	£33.95
120mm (approx)	58.5	2125	£36.95
130mm (approx)	63.5	2305	£39.95
140mm (approx)	68.5	2485	£42.95
150mm (approx)	73.5	2665	£45.95
160mm (approx)	78.5	2845	£48.95
170mm (approx)	83.5	3025	£51.95
180mm (approx)	88.5	3205	£54.95
190mm (approx)	93.5	3385	£57.95
200mm (approx)	98.5	3565	£60.95
210mm (approx)	103.5	3745	£63.95
220mm (approx)	108.5	3925	£66.95
230mm (approx)	113.5	4105	£69.95
240mm (approx)	118.5	4285	£72.95
250mm (approx)	123.5	4465	£75.95
260mm (approx)	128.5	4645	£78.95
270mm (approx)	133.5	4825	£81.95
280mm (approx)	138.5	5005	£84.95
290mm (approx)	143.5	5185	£87.95
300mm (approx)	148.5	5365	£90.95
310mm (approx)	153.5	5545	£93.95
320mm (approx)	158.5	5725	£96.95
330mm (approx)	163.5	5905	£99.95
340mm (approx)	168.5	6085	£102.95
350mm (approx)	173.5	6265	£105.95
360mm (approx)	178.5	6445	£108.95
370mm (approx)	183.5	6625	£111.95
380mm (approx)	188.5	6805	£114.95
390mm (approx)	193.5	6985	£117.95
400mm (approx)	198.5	7165	£120.95
410mm (approx)	203.5	7345	£123.95
420mm (approx)	208.5	7525	£126.95
430mm (approx)	213.5	7705	£129.95
440mm (approx)	218.5	7885	£132.95
450mm (approx)	223.5	8065	£135.95
460mm (approx)	228.5	8245	£138.95
470mm (approx)	233.5	8425	£141.95
480mm (approx)	238.5	8605	£144.95
490mm (approx)	243.5	8785	£147.95
500mm (approx)	248.5	8965	£150.95

NOTE: For exposed rooms, northern aspect, 3.5m high, use guide on p. 10. For other rooms, use guide on p. 10. For rooms with high ceilings, use guide on p. 10. For rooms with high ceilings, use guide on p. 10.

CYLINDERS & TANKS

10 Gallon Cold Feed & Expansion Tank..... **£3.99**
40 Gallon Cold Feed & Expansion Tank..... **£18.99**
10 Gallon Hot Water Tank..... **£9.99**
40 Gallon Hot Water Tank..... **£17.99**

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BUSINESS

FRIDAY AUGUST 24 1990

City Editor
John Bell

Michael Peters calls in receivers

MICHAEL Peters Group, the design consultant, called in the receivers yesterday after failing to secure financial support to keep the group going.

Disposal terms at York Trust

York Trust has announced the terms of the disposal of its corporate finance and investment management subsidiaries.

Mr Balfour and his colleagues are buying YTL, an investment manager, together with a portfolio with a book value of £3.1 million.

The deal, which is being put to shareholders, is part of York's plan to convert itself into a fee-earning, mini-merchant bank, with money-broking and leasing businesses.

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Pre-tax profits at the Bridon wire and ropes group slipped from £7.9 million to £7 million in the first half of this year, but the interim dividend is held at 2.5p.

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Tokyo falls 1,473 points: Bargain hunting in London: New York loses year of gains Shares slump world-wide on Gulf tension



The only way is up: London oil traders yesterday

By OUR CITY STAFF
SHARE prices round the world continued to slump as tension increased in the Gulf yesterday.

Since Iraq invaded Kuwait on August 2, share prices round the world have fallen sharply, recovering only marginally on bargain hunting by investors.

Mr Robert Solomon, chief of equity research at Salomon Brothers, said: "The Middle East is providing the uncertainty but the market is confronted with US economic activity deteriorating, strong possibility of a recession, and interest rates climbing."

Mr Sheppard says there are also signs that British investors are now repatriating some of their overseas investments. Shares are also depressed in Britain by the prospect of continued high interest rates.

Gregory Bundy, the head of equity trading at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc, said: "Technically, there should be a rebound, but we're beyond technical analysis now."

Investors send 'safe pound' above DM3

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

STERLING powered back through DM3 yesterday for the first time since Nigel Lawson resigned as chancellor as investors looked for safe havens from the Middle East storms.

By the close in London the pound was 2.84 pence higher than its previous close at DM3.0218 and a full point higher in terms of the Bank of England's effective rate index at 96.9.

Dealers said the reasons for the pound's strength were its petro-currency characteristics, its attraction as a safe haven and its high yield.

Fear of shortages push oil prices to near \$31 a barrel

By MARTIN BARROW

OIL prices crashed through \$30 a barrel yesterday, driven by fears that supplies may run short if tension in the Middle East escalates into an armed conflict.

In London, October Brent surged more than \$2 to an eight-year peak of \$31.05, but settled back to \$30.75, against an overnight price of \$28.84.

Signs of a slowdown in the British economy continued to multiply, with growth in the narrow measure of the money supply, M0, slowing to about 5 per cent a year this week.

The rally gathered strength as Iraq announced plans to surround foreign embassies in Kuwait as today's deadline for diplomatic staff to quit the country approached.

Now that the \$30 level has been breached without a shot being fired in the Gulf, energy analysts believe prices could continue climbing towards \$40.

The decision was welcomed by PowerGen, whose chairman, Robert Malpas, said: "We have always believed that the interests of our customers, shareholders and employees will best be achieved by PowerGen remaining an independent company."

"The feeling now is that prices will rise dramatically upon the first sign of military conflict," said Chris Perry, an analyst at Gilbert Elliott Girozentrale. "There is going to be a conflict and it seems certain that there is going to be massive damage to oil installations."

Crude oil prices continue to be outpaced by increases in the cost of petroleum products, of which only minimal reserves are kept. Fearing that suppliers will not be able to meet deliveries of products such as petrol, kerosene and gas oil, traders are buying surplus stocks and driving prices higher.

John Wakeham, the energy secretary, said yesterday that talks with Hanson over its possible purchase of PowerGen had ended without a formal offer. The electricity generator would now be floated along with National Power in February, he said.

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Setback for savings

THE rising trend in building society savings suffered a setback last month as investors paid for holidays and water shares. But the societies still had a positive balance of £563 million, according to figures published by the Building Societies Association.

Donald Trump, the New York property developer, has withdrawn his airline from the market. He had put the New York to Washington shuttle on the market saying he wanted cash to buy property.

No figures are being formally revealed, but it appears that Hanson indicated last month it might bid in excess of £1.5 billion. That was seen as an acceptable price by the government.

Supplier enters Queensway fray

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THE dispute raging between Lowndes Queensway's receivers and some of the group's carpet suppliers has led to one supplier threatening to sue Nigel Hamilton and Terence Carter, the Ernst & Young partners who have been appointed receivers to Lowndes.

Returned on August 16 but the receivers refused, failed to return it and threatened to sell it, the writ states. Associated Weavers was asking for a court declaration that it owned the carpet, an injunction to prevent the receivers from disposing of the carpet and an order for its return.

Customers are suffering because of the problems with the carpet suppliers. Liz Law of Peterborough paid £741.40 for a carpet, and was told by her local branch that it had been repossessed by the supplier. The shop is prepared to offer her an alternative but has been warned against doing so by head office.

Associated Weavers (Europe) of Halifax, West Yorkshire, which supplied 1 million worth of carpet to the collapsed furnishing group, has lodged a writ with the High Court in London asking for an injunction against the receivers. The writ has not yet been served and a spokeswoman for Dunlavy-Rosin, solicitor to Associated Weavers, said her client had reached a settlement but gave no details.

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Smiles from the potential savior: Lord Hanson at his company headquarters yesterday

PowerGen to be sold by flotation

By MARTIN WALLER

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, said yesterday that talks with Hanson over its possible purchase of PowerGen had ended without a formal offer. The electricity generator would now be floated along with National Power in February, he said.

"We have no wish to compete with this," he said. It appears, however, that the negotiations between PowerGen's board and the energy department over what debts the company would incur if it was floated and the level of prospective dividend cover indicated a higher price for the company than had earlier been thought.

When added to the debt injection, it was realised that total proceeds from the sale would approach £1.5 billion. Meanwhile, the turmoil on world energy and stock markets, along with the realisation that it might have to fund an expensive programme to cut acid-rain emissions, are thought to have cooled Hanson's enthusiasm for the purchase.

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Hang Seng Bank sets record at half time

From Our Correspondent
in Hong Kong

SIR Q W Lee, chairman of the Hang Seng Bank, yesterday predicted a 2.2 per cent growth for the 1990 gross domestic product after announcing record interim profits.

The bank, which is 61 per cent owned by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, saw net profits increase 17 per cent to HK\$650.9 million (£42.9 million) for the six months to end-June. Earnings per share rose to 65.7 cents.

The results bode well for the parent bank, which is due to release its figures next week. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is expected to be hit by the poor performance of the Marine Midland Bank, its American arm, and Britain's Midland Bank, in which it has a 14.9 per cent stake.

The chairman's GDP forecast compares with 2.5 per cent actual growth for last year, and the government's 3 per cent prediction for this year.

Most banks and brokerage firms have revised their figures downwards following the Kuwait conflict.

The Hang Seng Bank, which is one of Hong Kong's biggest and most profitable companies, has 121 branches in the colony and employs more than 6,000 people.

But like the rest of the banking industry, it suffers from a 10 per cent staff shortfall and steep salary increases of up to 25 per cent. Analysts say rising costs and a slowdown in loan demands are likely to reduce the profitability of Hong Kong banks.

The board of Hang Seng yesterday said that the total dividend for the year would not be less than HK\$1.20 per share, a growth of 16 per cent over 1989. It has declared an interim dividend of 27 cents per share (22.5 cents).

Total group assets rose 11.4 per cent to HK\$195.63 billion.

Hung Yuan bank heads arrested

Taipei THE Taiwan government yesterday arrested the leaders of its largest underground investment house, the Hung Yuan group, and froze its assets, ending an era that saw thousands risk their life savings in the hope of great gain.

Bureau of Investigation officials said 42 Hung Yuan officials were being questioned and eight senior staff had been arrested, including Shen Chang-shen, the group's chairman, and Liu Yung-an, the general manager.

Hung Yuan attracted billions in deposits from ordinary people, often pensioners, by offering interest rates as high as eight per cent per month.

Fearing the operations were giant pyramid schemes that used new deposits to pay interest to the original investors, the government passed a law in July, 1989, specifying long jail terms and heavy fines for illegal deposit-taking.

According to Bureau of Investigation officials, Shen said Hung Yuan had taken about 95.9 billion Taiwan dollars (£1.8 billion) in deposits from some 200,000 investors since it was founded in 1982.

They said Shen claimed Hung Yuan had already paid out more than \$80 billion Taiwan dollars in interest and returned principal, and the company was still worth more than \$256 million.

Hung Yuan and the Fortune Group were the only two investment houses that continued to operate after the new banking law.

Hung Yuan once claimed assets of £1.89 billion and overseas operations in Hong Kong, Thailand, Kuwait, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Turkey and America.

(Reuters)

Sky losses cut News Corp profit to £183m

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PROFITS of The News Corporation, the international media group that owns *The Times*, fell by a third to £183 million (£183 million) before tax in the year to end-June, on turnover up 12.2 per cent to £8.76 billion, mainly because of £95 million operating losses over ten months on Sky Television, the satellite broadcasting system.

The long-running pilots' dispute at its half-owned associate, Ansett Airlines, now resolved, also cut pre-tax profits by about £100 million. Net interest charges, though mostly at fixed or capped rates, rose from £386.8 million to £594.5 million.

Operating profits in America rose 37 per cent to £799 million, thanks to the television stations and Fox Broadcasting. But Australian and Pacific Basin operating profits edged up only 3 per cent to £425 million. Display advertising was weak in Australia.

Group net profits after tax fell 43 per cent to £282 million, despite tax-saving measures that cut the tax on operating profit to £57.9 million.

An independent triennial revaluation of newspaper titles and television licences, of which 70 per cent is included in the balance sheet, has added £3.3 billion to its previous balance sheet value of £8.85 billion. This has helped cut the group's loan gearing from 98 to 90 per cent of shareholders' funds, despite a slight increase in group borrowings to £5 billion at the year-end.

Asset sales, including 49 per cent of the *South China Morning Post*, brought in nearly £500 million, but Harper & Collins, the international book publisher, previously treated as an associate, became 100 per cent owned just before the year-end.

News Corp, whose chief executive is Rupert Murdoch, says Sky programmes are now received in 1.6 million homes after improvements in marketing, having beaten the target of 1.15 million homes in the first year to end-February. Losses continue but are budgeted to be lower this year than in the previous ten months. The group hopes Sky Television may move into

profit at the end of 1991 or in 1992, though this would probably require an increase in the number of homes receiving the service to between 2.5 million and 3 million.

Operating profits of News International, the British subsidiary, fell from £175 million to £62 million, including the running losses at Sky. Operating profits of News International's national newspapers and magazines, including *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun*, *News of the World* and *Today*, fell 8 per cent due to a poor advertising market and new Sunday newspaper rivals.

News International made a pre-tax loss of £266 million, after interest charges of £205 million (£139 million) and exceptional charges of £123 million.

The group has changed tack over accounting for the launch and development costs of Sky Television before September 1989, which it had intended to depreciate over five years. Instead they have been written off as incurred. Newspaper printing equipment has also been written down by £28 million, before the installation of colour presses.

The accounting change requires a restatement of the News International accounts for 1988-89, which now show a pre-tax loss of £34 million instead of a £21 million profit after apportioning £75 million of Sky development costs.

In News Corp's accounts, drawn up under new Australian rules, Sky development costs are written off below the line as abnormal items and are more than covered by abnormal gains from asset sales.

News Corp's dividend is unchanged at Aus10 cents a share. Dividends on News International special dividend shares, paying the sterling equivalent, are down 12 per cent to 4.36p due to the rise in sterling.

Advertising markets remain tight in Britain and Australia. But News Corp profits should benefit this year from normal operations at Ansett, smaller losses at Sky, the inclusion of profits from Harper & Collins and a recovery at the Twentieth Century Fox film division in America, which has a much stronger schedule of film releases.

CBI sets up probe into flourishing fake goods trade

By DEREK HARRIS, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Confederation of British Industry is to mount an investigation into counterfeiting in an effort to force the government and the European Commission to strengthen laws against trading fake goods.

Sales of counterfeit products, such as perfumes, watches and clothes, are thought to cost business worldwide about £32 billion a year and may be responsible for the loss of 20,000 jobs in Britain and some 100,000 in the European Community.

The investigation will be carried out in conjunction with the Anti-Counterfeiting Group, whose clients include brand-name leaders, Carier and Estée Lauder.

The CBI is concerned that the dismantling of EC border controls in 1992 will make it more difficult to detect counterfeit goods.

The biggest sources of fake products are Mexico, Thailand and South Korea. But Italy, Greece and Turkey have also been involved in the making of counterfeit goods.

The CBI finds fake goods alarming on two counts. It

says that counterfeiting not only damages company reputations but also puts in circulation goods, including unsafe car components and fake life-saving drugs, which could cost lives.

According to Judith Vincent, the CBI's head of company law, counterfeit bolts made in Asia have caused trucks to run out of control and have been responsible for at least one death.

The implications for the pharmaceutical industry are even more devastating, she says, with the sale of fake life-saving drugs that lack the essential ingredients.

The CBI enquiry will assess how much different industries are affected by counterfeiting and identify sources of fake goods.

Antonia Worsdall, secretary of ACG, says that trade in fake goods is widespread in Britain and involves audio tape pirating, the production of fake designer-label clothing, the manufacture of fake aircraft components for sale overseas, and the production of counterfeit car parts.

HK weakness hits Li companies

From LULU YU in HONG KONG

HONG KONG'S weakened hotels and property markets resulted in Cheung Kong Holdings and the Hutchison Whampoa group, Li Ka-shing's two main companies, recording growth in interim net profits of only 2.7 per cent and 16 per cent respectively.

Cheung Kong Holdings, the property company, which owns 40 per cent of the Hutchison Whampoa group, yesterday revealed net profits up to HK\$948 million (£62.49 million) for the six months to end-June.

Earnings per share rose to 43 cents from 42 cents. The results were helped by an extraordinary gain of HK\$157 million.

Net profits for Hutchison rose 16 per cent to HK\$1.12 billion from HK\$964 million in the first half of last year. Earnings per share rose to 37 cents.

An extraordinary income of HK\$368 million was derived mainly from the sale of John D Hutchison and Hutchison-Boag Engineering, the group's trading

and engineering subsidiaries, to Inchcape Pacific this year.

"The rate of take-up of office and luxury residential buildings continued to slow down and in some cases rentals have been reduced," said Mr Li, chairman of Cheung Kong.

"The slower growth of the economy of Hong Kong in the first half year resulted in a consolidation of the property market," he added.

Hutchison's interests in Hong Kong include two hotels, supermarkets, Watson's chemists, pagers and mobile phone franchises and a utility firm. The company also owns Nokia Mobira, the cellular telephone operator and Quadram Communications of Britain, 21 per cent of Cluff Resources, and 43 per cent of Canada's Husky Oil.

Husky Oil is expected to benefit from the recent sharp increase in oil prices, said Mr Li.

The extraordinary profit realised on the sale of Mr Li's 4.8 per cent interest in Cable and Wireless in July will be

reflected in the second-half results, Mr Li said the acquisition of Nokia Mobira and Quadram had "put the group's UK customer base in the provision of cellular telephone services on a sound footing".

Following the launch of AsiaSat 1, Asia's first domestic telecom satellite, in which Hutchison has equal stakes with British Telecom and a Chinese company, the group is poised to set up satellite TV in the Hong Kong region.

"With over two billion people as a potential audience within its footprint, AsiaSat is well positioned to offer a full range of satellite services throughout the area," said Mr Li.

Mr Li said the profit contribution from Hutchison's interests in the Sheraton and Hilton Hotels was down from last year and that he expected difficult conditions to continue.

Hutchison is paying an interim dividend of 18 cents per share (16 cents) and Cheung Kong is paying 12 cents (10 cents). Mr Li has predicted improved earnings for the full year.



A "frustrating" year for Aerospace: John Davis

Aerospace down 14% to £2.71m

By JONATHAN FRYN

AEROSPACE Engineering, the specialist engineering and electrical products manufacturer that was hit by a strike at British Aerospace from November 1989 to April this year, has reported a 14 per cent slide in pre-tax profits.

John Davis, the chairman, said the industrial action and a temporary slowdown in demand for gas turbine tooling from the main aerospace manufacturers had cost the company about £1 million in lost earnings.

"It has been a frustrating year," he said. As a result, pre-tax profits for the year ended April 30 fell to £2.71 million compared with £3.17 million in 1989.

A final dividend of 1.56p makes 3.12p for the full year.

10 per cent up on the previous year.

Rolls-Royce, General Electric and Pratt & Whitney, the three main aeroengine makers, all cut back on orders while they were developing new engines. The new products have now been developed, resulting in "a surge in demand" in the gas turbine tooling market, Mr Davis said.

Analysts said the resolution of both problems would cause sharp increases in profits during the 1990-91 financial year.

The company has spent a total of £1.85 million on several small acquisitions, taking year-end gearing to 52 per cent against 23 per cent last year. Mr Davis said more acquisitions would follow.

Suntory increases stake in Allied

By MICHAEL TATE
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SUNTORY has acquired a further 2.5 per cent stake in Allied Lyons for £85 million, lifting its holding to almost 5 per cent.

The privately-owned Japanese drinks company has subscribed for 19.06 million new Allied shares at 446p each, Allied said yesterday. However, a Suntory holding of more than 5 per cent was not contemplated, it added.

Suntory acquired its initial holding in October 1988 as part of a joint-venture pact to distribute Allied's spirit brands in Japan.

It paid £89 million for a 2.5 per cent stake in Allied and, as part of the same agreement, Allied acquired a 1 per cent stake in the Japanese firm for £27 million.

Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, Allied chairman, said: "We are delighted that, by this increase in its shareholding, Suntory has demonstrated its confidence in our relationship and in its future development."

Sales of Allied's international liquor brands had increased significantly since the joint venture, started trading in April last year. The venture, Suntory-Allied-Lyons, had made a net contribution to group profits in its first full year, Sir Derrick said.

Volume for Courvoisier in Japan had more than doubled and there had been "very substantial" gains for Kahua, Canadian Club and Bellanotte's.

He said that Hiram Walker, an Allied division, was distributing Suntory brands in North America.

Mr Keizo Saji, Suntory chairman, said the increased shareholding "symbolises the increasing number of business opportunities we are examining together and the strength of our resolve to work together in future."

The two companies are discussing broader areas of co-operation and further joint ventures outside Japan, but including Europe. They were already operating an exchange management training programme.

The Allied statement said Suntory's enlarged stake would still be subject to the same terms as under the original agreement, including restrictions on voting, acquisitions and disposals of shares.

News of the purchase reversed an early fall in Allied's shares, lifting them 4p to 446p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lilley praises strength of manufacturing

THE rebirth of Britain's motor industry was a good example of the renewed strength of the nation's manufacturing industry, said Peter Lilley, the trade secretary.

At the conclusion of a tour of East Midlands industry, Mr Lilley visited Burnaston, Derbyshire, where Toyota, the Japanese vehicle maker, is building its first British car plant. Mr Lilley said that over the coming decade he expected Britain to enjoy the fastest growth in Europe for car output. "I am very encouraged by what I have seen. Evidence of the fundamental resurgence in the manufacturing industry is to be seen all around the regions. This reflects the position of transformation in UK manufacturing after decades of overmanning and poor performance. Manufacturing is stronger today than at any time in the past."

T Clarke in 28% advance

T CLARKE, the south London electrical contractor, has announced pre-tax profits for the first half of the year up 28 per cent to £2.17 million, from £1.69 million last time. Turnover was £32.6 million, a 4 per cent improvement on the same period in 1989. Earnings per share were 11.22p against 8.16p. An interim dividend of 1.2p is recommended, compared with 1.16p last year.

Lec increases to £534,000

LEC Refrigeration, the fridge manufacturer, has reported a 62.3 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £329,000 to £534,000 for the first six months of the year. The profits were earned from sales up 5 per cent at £25.6 million from last year's £24.4 million "despite the current difficult trading conditions," the company said. An interim dividend of 4p is unchanged from last year.

Losses cut at Nixdorf

NIXDORF, the troubled West German computer maker owned by Siemens, cut its first half pre-tax losses to DM266 million (£89 million) from a previous DM299 million via staff cuts and lower raw material costs. The company expects the trend to continue during the rest of the year.

The shareholders yesterday approved a capital rise, which will give Siemens 78 per cent of the company. Siemens said it will merge its own computer operation with those of Nixdorf in Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme, to become operational on October 1. The company will have a turnover of DM13 billion, and will be Europe's largest computer firm.

Inco takes 6% of Explaura

INCO, the Canadian nickel group, has bought a 6 per cent stake in Newfoundland-based Explaura Holdings in what mining analysts view as a significant vote of confidence in Explaura's limestone quarry operations. Explaura has issued 4 million shares at 40p each to Inco; and, in a related transaction, Inco has agreed to buy 3 million Explaura shares from certain shareholders at 32p each.

Cattle's rises to £3.71m

CATTLE Holdings, the checker trader and curtain retailer, raised pre-tax profits by a tenth to £3.71 million in the half-year to end-June despite the consumer squeeze. The dividend is lifted 9 per cent to 1.5p. Profits at Cattle's main door-to-door debt collecting business, Shopcheck, rose 21 per cent, despite high interest rates, but this was offset by profit falls in hire purchase and leasing.

York doubles profits

YORK Waterworks, which supplies the City of York and surrounding areas, has increased its pre-tax profits from £348,000 to £696,000 in the six months to end-June, the first period since it converted from statutory company to plc status. The interim dividend is 2p per share. This is not comparable to previous dividends due to conversion, but the total dividend cost rose from £126,000 to £259,000 including preference dividends.

The company is to change its year end from December to end-March to fit in with its annual charging year. A second interim dividend should be declared for 12 months.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily chg (%)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (pts)	Yearly chg (pts)
The World	549.8	-4.6	-34.8	-3.3	-23.4
(free)	104.8	-4.6	-35.0	-3.4	-23.5
EAFF	959.0	-5.1	-38.4	-4.1	-28.7
(free)	98.2	-5.1	-38.8	-4.2	-28.8
Europe	600.6	-3.4	-21.1	-3.0	-15.8
(free)	129.3	-3.3	-21.1	-3.2	-17.1
Nth America	385.9	-3.9	-27.7	-2.6	-12.6
Nordic	1268.7	-4.2	-18.5	-3.4	-9.8
(free)	203.5	-4.6	-13.5	-3.8	-4.5
Pacific	2054.8	-6.5	-48.2	-6.0	-36.6
Far East	2936.2	-6.7	-49.2	-6.2	-37.4
Australia	777.9	-2.7	-30.0	-2.6	-1.3
Austria	1330.5	-3.2	-7.1	-2.6	-1.9
Belgium	701.0	-1.2	-25.8	-0.8	-1.1
Canada	437.1	-2.9	-27.2	-1.9	-1.7
Denmark	1128.0	-3.4	-14.3	-2.7	-6.4
Finland	81.6	-2.5	-29.2	-1.6	-2.2
(free)	106.5	-5.1	-28.5	-4.2	-13.4
France	563.4	-4.4	-30.3	-3.8	-24.3
Germany	711.3	-3.8	-22.5	-3.1	-14.3
Hong Kong	1838.2	-4.1	-17.1	-2.8	-1.8
Italy	285.1	-2.7	-26.0	-2.1	-18.7
Japan	3079.7	-6.8	-50.1	-5.2	-38.6
Netherlands	749.0	-3.4	-21.7	-2.7	-13.7
New Zealand	73.4	-5.0	-28.0	-3.7	-13.7
Norway	1315.7	-3.7	-2.0	-2.9	-2.4
(free)	236.4	-3.4	-1.2	-2.7	-1.1
Sing/Malaysia	1587.6	-5.3	-30.4	-4.6	-21.3
Spain	167.1	-4.6	-29.4	-4.0	-24.2
Sweden	1369.0	-5.0	-21.9	-4.2	-12.9
(free)	197.7	-6.3	-18.3	-5.5	-8.0
Switzerland	735.0	-5.0	-19.6	-5.0	-3.7
(free)	110.1	-5.2	-21.2	-5.1	-22.1
United Kingdom	610.9	-2.4	-15.3	-2.4	-15.3
USA	348.1	-4.0	-27.8	-2.7	-12.5

(R) Local currency.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

ALPHA STOCKS

Vol 000	Vol 000	Vol 000	Vol 000
ADT 1,725	Cookson 1,517	Lovato 2,733	Shell 4,990
Admiral 1,878	Countryside 1,395	Lucas 2,016	Shire 1,371
Adm-Lyons 1,915	Deleage 518	Marguerite 304	Smith 219
Admiral 1,551	Dunelm 622	M&S 500	Smith & N 3,892
Admiral 1,834	Edwards 322	M&S 940	St. George 2,217
Argos 847	Enterprise 1,252	MB Group 256	St. John 192
ASDA 7,454	Ferranti 2,219	Mecca 25	Smith WH 578
AB Foods 216	Formica 4,447	NEPC 940	Smiths Int 7,100
Argyll 4,820	FPI 1,027	Midland 1,203	STC 2,125
BAA 1,013	Gen Acc 639	Nat West 4,543	Stan Chart 289
BAT 2,226	GECC 8,755	Nat West 4,543	Stan Chart 289
BTR 4,265	Glen 5,462	Novo 2,370	Stovess 1,383
GET 17,254	Globe Inv 61	NSO 662	Sun Life 109
Berkley 4,399	Glynwed 711	Patterson 523	T & N 3,151
Beezer 490	Granada 617	Pickering 1,748	T Group 698
Bentley 405	Gramp 1,729	Poly Pack 1,020	TWP 4,200
BGC 1,013	GUS A 417	Prudential 5,597	Tyler & Lytle 568
Blue Circle 1,206	GRE 1,537	Royal 7,082	Taylor Wood 885
Boots 2,382	GN 1,300	Royal 7,082	Taylor Wood 885
BPS 719	Hamlyn A 1,348	Rail 519	TSE 1,758
Bt Aero 1,895	De Wits 1,599	RAC 277	Thames W 1,768
Beezer 490	Grand Med 1,626	Redland 1,285	Thames W 1,768
Bentley 405	GUS A 417	Poly Pack 1,020	TWP 4,200
BGC 1,013	GRE 1,537	Prudential 5,597	Tyler & Lytle 568
Blue Circle 1,206	GN 1,300	Royal 7,082	Taylor Wood 885
Boots 2,382	Hamlyn A 1,348	Rail 519	TSE 1,758
BPS 719	Hamlyn A 1,348	RAC 277	Thames W 1,768

There will be a degree of scepticism in the City over the latest twist of events in the PowerGen sale. The official explanation of the decision to return to the original flotation plan is clear, but nevertheless puzzling.

Recent falls in the stock market have made the likely proceeds of a share sale to the public less than could have been expected several months ago. But the government's advisers would have us believe the opposite.

Until yesterday, the presence of Lord Hanson with the exclusive right to make the first offer in a trade auction was justified on the grounds that this would yield a greater return than a share sale. So it should in theory. Any trade purchaser must have expected to pay a premium for control of PowerGen. But Lord Hanson was unable to assure John Wakeham, the energy secretary, that the Hanson offer would be attractively more than the proceeds of a flotation.

One of the key factors in the official mind was that Hanson's corporate structure helped to shelter from taxation part of

PowerGen's future profits. Nevertheless, a more optimistic view is now being taken of PowerGen's sale value. This change of perception apparently follows further investigations by SG Warburg, the merchant bank, which was originally appointed to advise the government on the PowerGen sale and has subsequently been examining a possible buyout led by PowerGen's management.

The clear implication is that PowerGen has had its mind concentrated powerfully by the twin prospects of a Hanson takeover on one hand and continued independence via a successful buyout on the other. During the last few days, PowerGen's board has been persuaded to agree to a much lower, but still comfortable, level of dividend cover in any sale. This would have the effect of raising the yield and thus the value of PowerGen's shares. The validity of this case will be tested

PowerGen's hostages to fortune

COMMENT

when the shares are marketed next spring.

Whatever the official line, it is also probable that Lord Hanson's team of investigators was reducing its estimates of PowerGen's value while the company's management was raising it. The government was not attracted to suggestions that it should help to bear some of the costs of meeting expensive anti-pollution controls any more than Hanson was to the idea that its favourable tax position should effectively become a penalty in the sale.

By reverting to a share sale, the government has at least headed off the huge damage of a low offer from Hanson. Few institutional investors would have been prepared to buy PowerGen shares at prices that Hanson thought too rich. Hanson's price would have put a ceiling on

propel it higher. Commonwealth currencies such as the Australian dollar and Canadian dollar with similar characteristics accompanied the pound as did that ultimate safe haven, the Swiss franc.

At some stage, one must begin to ask whether the rise will continue to serve the government's economic aims. John Major, the chancellor, has been more than content to see sterling appreciate from its winter depths because it has helped to tighten policy without the need to raise interest rates.

A growing conviction that Britain will indeed join the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System before long helped to push the currency up substantially, reducing the cost of imports and putting pressure on employers to contain pay increases.

Since this year's low on March 21, sterling has appreciated in terms of the effective rate index

by about 13½ per cent. If sustained, this rise could reduce the rate of inflation by about 3 per cent below what it would otherwise have been, or possibly by considerably more depending on your view of how the economy works.

However, the government's strategy has suddenly been supercharged by the rise in the oil price.

Sterling is rising further and faster than seemed remotely likely earlier in the year, recalling the surge of the early 80s.

In response, the government could accept this rise to counter-balance the rise in oil prices, which would be the conventional anti-inflationist's response. This would increase the risk of recession and would compound the problems that British exporters are beginning to face.

Alternatively, interest rates could come down faster than they otherwise would have done in order to curb sterling's rise.

Mr Major will want to see whether sterling's rise looks like being sustained before navigating his way between these two options.

How the fog could have been avoided at PowerGen



Voices: John Wakeham opting for a flotation

THE electricity privatisation was always seen as the most difficult of the government's asset sales that began with British Telecom in 1984. But observers say that even the present troubles will pale into insignificance once the Treasury and the relevant departments start to grapple with British Coal and the rail network.

Yesterday the government opted again for a public flotation of PowerGen, reversing attempts over the past few weeks to find a trade buyer or to sell to the management.

With the benefit of hindsight, the present confusion could have been avoided on several occasions in the past two years. Probably the most significant was the decision to strip out the nuclear stations last autumn. Until then there had been a degree of logic behind the new structure of the industry that was to follow the abolition of the Central Electricity Generating Board in March this year.

In England and Wales, upstream from the 12 distributors, was the generating industry linked by the national grid. This Cartesian division between generation and distribution was at the heart of the new system and central to attempts at introducing competition into the industry.

The logical approach, when electricity privatisation was first mooted in the mid-Eighties, was to balance the 12 distributors with possibly six generating companies. Between the two would stand the grid, acting almost as referee and overseeing the new electricity pool.

The government early on fudged the issue over the grid, which is now jointly owned by the distributors. Another fudge was necessary for the generators, because of the enormous cost, even then not entirely appreciated, of nuclear power. The nuclear industry as a body was clearly unfavourable at any price; the stations were put into National Power, which clearly had to be the biggest force in the industry to carry the cost.

The generating side was therefore split in two, with PowerGen representing about

40 per cent of the parts of the industry to be sold and National Power the balance. But once the decision was taken to strip out the nuclear stations, last autumn, there was a strong body of opinion in favour of reverting to a five- or six-way split.

Why this was not done has never been satisfactorily explained. The party line is lack of time before the float. Given that the two events were 18 months apart, this is hardly credible. More likely is the suspicion that there was no chance of finding five or six managements of sufficient quality to lead the industry into the private sector.

It is a view given credence by the problems experienced by National Power in finding a

room, and PowerGen, under Robert Malpas, its combative chairman. PowerGen made the mistake of threatening to break off negotiations or to claim, in public, that the company was unfloatable under the debt level being suggested.

Mr Wakeham began to look round for a big stick. He was also aware that City opinion favoured the distributors over the generators, seen as a far riskier investment.

Cliveden, home of the Astor family, has seen a few unusual liaisons. From the power industry's standpoint the most significant was the idea hatched there by Mr Wakeham and Lord Hanson last May.

Why did Hanson not offer to buy PowerGen, thus putting a firm price on the company in any impending sale, with the benefit of scaring its board? Quite what Hanson would have wanted with PowerGen is unclear, even though the company would have been the recipient of cheap coal from Hanson's Peabody offshoot in America.

Observers believe Hanson had little idea what it was buying, even though its offer was clearly a firm one and not just an expression of support for a government its chairman admired. The news appalled Mr Malpas and his colleagues, who immediately started plans for their own buyout.

The government announced that a Hanson bid would be followed by a full-scale trade auction of the company, with all sensible bids considered. But as the summer, and talks with the department over terms of sale, dragged on, Hanson appeared to be getting cold feet. The dispute over the news that Hanson would be paid a fee or sweetener, in the Opposition's view — for handing perhaps £15 million, hardly helped.

The last straw, it appeared, was Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This had the twin effect of sending world stock markets into a tail-spin, thus affecting the price of any asset. PowerGen included, while disrupting the world energy markets.

MARTIN WALLER

Weir engineers an increase

THE Weir Group has shown surprising strength in the six months to end-June, despite its links with industries which might be expected to suffer in an economic slowdown. It looks like having a good second half as well.

Interim pre-tax profits have risen from £9.42 million to £11 million on turnover up from £105.7 million to £131.3 million. The interim payout increased from 2.5p to 2.8p.

The impact of July's acquisition of Strachan and Henshaw and of Atwood and Morrill will be reflected in the second half. Meanwhile, the bundle of cash that came with the S & H deal gives Weir net cash balances of about £20 million.

In contrast with the

warnings coming from other engineering groups, Weir says it views the rest of the year with confidence. That confidence is backed by an order book which has grown 25.7 per cent to £150 million.

The group should also continue to do well out of its water and power connections. Its exposure to Middle East markets is modest, and contracts are covered by insurance.

Year-end profits of between £26.5 million and £28 million should be within reach, compared with £22.4 million for the last full year. Weir shares, which slipped 6p to 247p, are trading on a prospective p/e of 8. If Weir can continue to perform as strongly as it has done so far, accumulating the

shares now should prove well worthwhile in the medium term.

Bridon

OVER-CAPACITY in the European baler twine industry and the underperformance of the Australian economy have combined to hold up the Bridon growth drive.

A £1 million dip in interim profits to £7 million is £1 million worse than the market had hoped for and £500,000 worse than the board wanted, forcing a rapid downward revision of year-end forecasts to about £13 million against last year's £16 million.

Positive though the management stance is — it either makes money in baler

twine this winter or gets out, while the axe has already swung in the Australian industrial textiles division — Bridon cannot expect to recoup more than £1.5 million from these operations in 1991. Meanwhile, its biggest operation, wire and wire ropes, is running full tilt into a recession.

The company's European expansion plans have been set back a couple of years with the collapse of its plans to buy Verto, the threat of environmental claims by Holland's green lobby proving decisive.

On earnings of say, 17p, the 1990 prospective p/e ratio drops to just over eight times at 139p, but sound though the management is, it is hard to see the shares doing anything but drift.

ADVERTISEMENT

ACCEPTANCE FORMS MUST BE SENT TO THE CHIEF REGISTRAR, BANK OF ENGLAND (CONVERSIONS), PO BOX 444, GLOUCESTER, GL1 1NP TO ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 12.30 PM, ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990, OR LATER AT THE CENTRAL GILTS OFFICE, BANK OF ENGLAND, 1 BANK BUILDINGS, PRINCES STREET, LONDON, EC2R 8EU NOT LATER THAN 12.30 PM, ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990, OR LATER AT ANY OF THE BRANCHES OR AGENCIES OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND NOT LATER THAN 2.30 PM, ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 1990.

OFFER OF CONVERSION TO HOLDERS OF 10½ per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 2005 TO CONVERT INTO 9½ per cent CONVERSION STOCK, 2005

Application will be made to the Council of The International Stock Exchange for 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 issued as a result of this conversion to be admitted to the Official List on Monday, 17th September 1990.

1. THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND are authorised to invite holders of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 to convert all or part of their holdings into 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 on 20th September 1990 at the rate of £108.25 nominal of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 per £100 nominal of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005.
2. Holders who do not wish to convert any part of their holding should do nothing.
3. Registered holders of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 at the close of business on 18th August 1990 who exercise the option to convert on 20th September 1990 will receive the interest payment due on 20th September 1990. Interest at the rate of £0.7288 per £100 nominal of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 will be paid on 18th October 1990 in respect of Stock issued as a result of the conversion.
4. Conversion will be into registered stock of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 which, subject to the provisions contained in this notice, will rank equally in all respects with Stock already issued and will be subject to the provisions of the prospectus for 9½ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1989 dated 27th April 1984 (which contained the terms of issue of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005). Holdings of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 in respect of which the conversion option is exercised will be surrendered free from all liens, charges and encumbrances and with all the rights now or hereafter attaching to them except the right to receive the interest payment due on 20th September 1990.

Method of acceptance

5. Copies of this notice and acceptance forms for completion are being sent by post to holders of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 on the Bank of England Register and the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, Register. In the case of joint accounts, the forms are being sent to the first of the holders whose registered address is in the United Kingdom (or, if none has such address, to the first named holder). Holders who wish to convert all or part of their holdings should complete the acceptance form. Stock resulting from this conversion will, if the account details are identical, be added to existing holdings of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005.
6. In the case of stockholders who are not members of the Central Gilt Office (CGO) Service, completed acceptance forms with stock certificates must be sent to the Chief Registrar, Bank of England (Conversions), PO Box 444, Gloucester, GL1 1NP to arrive not later than 12.30 PM, ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990; or lodged at the Central Gilt Office, Bank of England, 1 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, London, EC2R 8EU not later than 12.30 PM, ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990; or lodged at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England not later than 3.30 PM, ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 1990. The Bank of England will acknowledge receipt of acceptance forms.

7. In the case of stockholders who are members of the CGO Service, completed acceptance forms must be lodged at the Central Gilt Office, Bank of England, 1 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, London, EC2R 8EU not later than 12.30 PM, ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990.
8. Copies of this notice and National Savings acceptance forms for completion are being sent to holders of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 on the National Savings Stock Register. Holders who wish to convert all or part of their holdings should complete the acceptance form and send it with investment certificates for at least the amount of Stock specified on the acceptance form to the Bonds and Stock Office, Myddel Road, Blackpool, FY3 9YP to arrive not later than 12.30 PM, ON THURSDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER 1990.

9. If a holder wishes to convert but cannot obtain an essential signature or document by 13th September 1990, the acceptance form, completed so far as possible, should be lodged in accordance with paragraphs 6 or 7 above, accompanied by a letter from a bank, solicitor or other professional adviser giving the reason for the acceptance being incomplete and undertaking to put it in order as soon as possible; it may then be possible to give effect to the acceptance, if there is insufficient time for the acceptance form to be lodged before the close of the offer, the holder may notify acceptance by facsimile (fax number 0452 398077 or 0452 398013) quoting brief particulars to identify the account and specifying the amount of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 to be converted; this should be followed without delay by a completed acceptance form and the certificates.

10. Up to and including 19th September 1990 holders in respect of which the conversion option has been exercised will be described on the register as 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 "Assented". On 20th September 1990 new holdings of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 will be issued on conversion and the stock will be amalgamated on the register with the existing 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005. Certificates for the new holdings of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 will be issued as soon as possible after 20th September 1990.

11. Up to and including 17th September 1990, CGO account balances in respect of which the conversion option has been exercised will be described as 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 "Assented". From the opening of business on 18th September 1990 the new 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 issued on conversion will be amalgamated with the balances of the existing 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005.

12. Transfers of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 for which stock transfer forms are lodged for registration up to 12.30 p.m. on 13th September 1990 will carry the option to convert into 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 on 20th September 1990.
13. Up to and including 19th September 1990, applications will be accepted for transfers of holdings in both 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 and 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 "Assented" on the National Savings Stock Register. From 20th September 1990 applications will be accepted for transfers of holdings in 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 and 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005. Balance certificates and certificates for stock issued on conversion will be sent by post to stockholders on the National Savings Stock Register by the Department for National Savings.

14. Transfers of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 "Assented" may be lodged for registration in that form up to 17th September 1990. After that date, on the lodging of such transfers for registration the transferees will be registered as holders of the appropriate amounts of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005. Transfers of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 "Assented" lodged for registration or sent for certification should be accompanied by the Bank of England's acknowledgement of the receipt of the acceptance form or, if the acknowledgement has been lodged with an earlier transfer of the Stock, by the receipt issued for that transfer.

15. The interest due on 18th October 1990 will be paid separately on holdings of the existing 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 registered at the close of business on 13th September 1990 and on the holdings of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 issued on conversion; consequently, interest mandates, authorities for income tax exemption and other notifications recorded in respect of existing holdings of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 will not be applied to the payment of interest due on 18th October 1990 on holdings of stock issued on conversion.

16. Where the conversion option has been exercised, any instructions for the payment of interest registered in respect of a holding of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 will be applied to the new holding of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005. Similarly, where instructions have been given by the Inland Revenue authorities for interest on the holding of 10½ per cent Exchequer Stock, 2005 to be paid without deduction of income tax, the instructions will be applied to the new holding of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005.

17. Her Majesty's Treasury has directed that Section 471 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 (which relates to the treatment for taxation purposes of financial concerns whose business consists wholly or partly in dealing in securities) shall apply to exchanges of securities arising from this offer.

Particulars of the issue of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005

18. The terms of issue of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 were contained in the prospectus for 9½ per cent Treasury Convertible Stock, 1989 dated 27th April 1984 and included the following provisions:—

- (a) The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. The principal of and interest on the Stock is a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.
- (b) The Stock will be repaid at par on 18th April 2005.
- (c) Interest is payable half-yearly on 18th April and 18th October. Interest warrants are transmitted by post.
- (d) The Stock is registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and is transferable, in multiples of one penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1983. Transfers are free of stamp duty.

Stock registered at the Bank of England held for the account of members of the CGO Service is also transferable, in multiples of one penny, by exempt transfer in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1982 and the relevant secondary legislation.

19. Additional copies of this notice, the particulars of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 and forms for the acceptance of the conversion offer may be obtained by post from the Bank of England, New Change, London, EC4M 8AA; at the Central Gilt Office, Bank of England, 1 Bank Buildings, Princes Street, London, EC2R 8EU; or at any of the Branches or Agencies of the Bank of England; at the Bank of Ireland, Moyle Buildings, 1st Floor, 20 Colander Street, Belfast, BT1 5BN; or at any office of The International Stock Exchange in the United Kingdom.

20. Members of the CGO Service may obtain further guidance about the arrangements set out above in relation to their accounts by contacting the Central Gilt Office, Bank of England.

STOCKHOLDERS UNCERTAIN AS TO THE BEST COURSE TO FOLLOW SHOULD CONSULT THEIR STOCKBROKER, BANK MANAGER, SOLICITOR, ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.

Government Statement
Attention is drawn to the statement issued by Her Majesty's Treasury on 28th May 1985 which explained that, in the interest of the orderly conduct of fiscal policy, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the Bank of England or their respective servants or agents undertake to disclose tax changes decided on but not yet announced, even where they may specifically affect the terms on which, or the conditions under which, the further amount of 9½ per cent Conversion Stock, 2005 is issued or sold by or on behalf of the Government or the Bank; that no responsibility can therefore be accepted for any omission to make such disclosure; and that such omission shall neither render any transaction liable to be set aside nor give rise to any claim for compensation.

BANK OF ENGLAND
LONDON
23rd August 1990

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

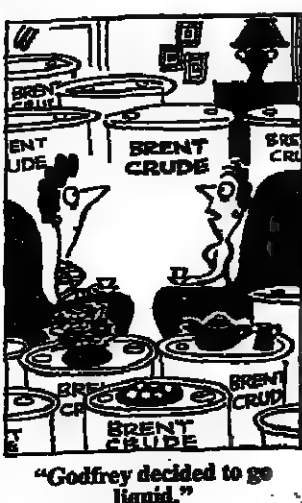
Simon supersedes

LORD Weinstock, managing director of GEC, the defence and electronics conglomerate, has conceded first place in the company's league table of shareholders to his son, Simon. Aged 38, Simon, who once worked for SG Warburg, joined GEC in 1983 as its commercial manager and was appointed to the board three years ago as commercial director. He now has 31,350,235 shares in the group — worth £57.68 million — compared with his father's holding of 8,801,470, worth a comparatively paltry £16.2 million. But Simon does not own all the shares outright. In a somewhat complicated cross-shareholding agreement, one million of them are held jointly with his father and 50-year-old Michael Lester, GEC's director of legal affairs, and a further 5.5 million are held jointly with Lester. To add to the confusion, GEC has been buying back its own shares for several years and word is that at its annual meeting in London's Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, on September 7, the directors will be seeking to renew their authority to buy back still more during the ensuing 18 months.

Radio daze

THE American drinks industry, which includes Grand Met, Guinness and Allied Lyons, the British exporters, faces a formal investigation by the Californian state attorney-

general into allegations that it is resorting to dirty tricks in the war over proposed increases in alcohol taxes. The beer, wine and liquor makers, gathered under the organisation known as Taxpayers for Common Sense, have threatened radio stations in a letter saying that its members might withdraw advertising if the stations give free air time to supporters of the tax rises. These will increase duty on wine from one cent to \$1.20, on beer from four cents to 75.3 cents and spirits from \$2 to \$8.40. Proponents of the tax rises have complained of unfair tactics and officials at the Californian Broadcasters Association have urged members to ignore the threats and abide by the Federal rules of fair play. However, the American drinks industry is spending up to \$18 million on the campaign, while supporters of the



"Godfrey decided to go liquid."

tax can barely raise \$1 million for an advertisement campaign before the vote in November.

Phonacea

UNICHEM, the pharmaceutical wholesaler, which is planning a full listing on the stock market in November, is already sharpening up its money-making ideas. Hoping, no doubt, to capitalise on the thousands of hypochondriacs in Britain — plus, of course, a number of very valid, anxious callers — the firm has this month launched a bank of 200 telephone helplines, each specialising in a different ailment. The pre-recorded messages on the Helpline service range from food allergies and vaccinations to nappy rash, hunchback and verrucas. Leaflets detailing the numbers are available from pharmacists. "The trade seems to like it, and the public reaction seems to be quite good," says chief executive Peter Dodd. "There is a modest incentive in it for us from British Telecom. We will make a couple of pence a minute," he adds.

HEADLINE in the Bombay Indian Express: "Indian Airlines Crash Course."

Short head

RARELY has the decline of Britain's manufacturing industry been more cogently illustrated than when Northern Ireland's Fair Employment Commission published details this week of 1,771 private firms employing more

than 25 people who have registered under new equality of opportunity legislation. The list, which is available to Short Brothers, the Belfast aerospace company, is still Ulster's largest company with 7,500 employees. It is followed in second place by British Telecom with 4,267. But then come the surprises.

Third and fourth places are occupied by two supermarket chains. The Dees Corporation's F.A. Wellworth, with over 3,820, and A.B. Food's Ulster arm, Stewarts Supermarkets, with 3,150. Ulster's two universities fill the next two slots — Queen's with 2,700 employees and the University of Ulster with 2,600. And where are the traditional pillars of Northern Ireland industry — shipbuilding, tobacco and textile machinery? Harland & Wolff is down to ninth place with only 2,276 employees, although it is about to take on a further 300 in a welcome revival. Galaher, the cigarette manufacturer, is thirteenth with 1,652 and textile engineer James Mackie & Sons does not even make it on to the list of Ulster's 20 largest private firms, with only 941. Displaced to nineteenth place is Michelin, after the closure of one of its two Ulster plants, while fibre and garment giant Courtaulds, like I.C. & W. no longer rates. What is worrying for Stormont's economic planners is that one-third of Ulster's registered private sector workforce is now employed by only 50 firms.

CAROL LEONARD

WALL STREET

Early setback for Dow

New York. SHARES fell in morning trading as investors, worried about the possibility of war in the Middle East and sharply higher oil prices, continued to sell. The Dow Jones industrial average was 51.49 lower at 2,508.66 at 11.15am, having

partly recovered from a 67-point loss. Steep losses in foreign markets overnight also contributed to the selling, analysts said.

David Mills, the senior vice-president at Boston Co., said: "There's panic feeding on itself."

(Reuters)

Bold buyers help prices to claw back some losses

By MATTHEW BOND

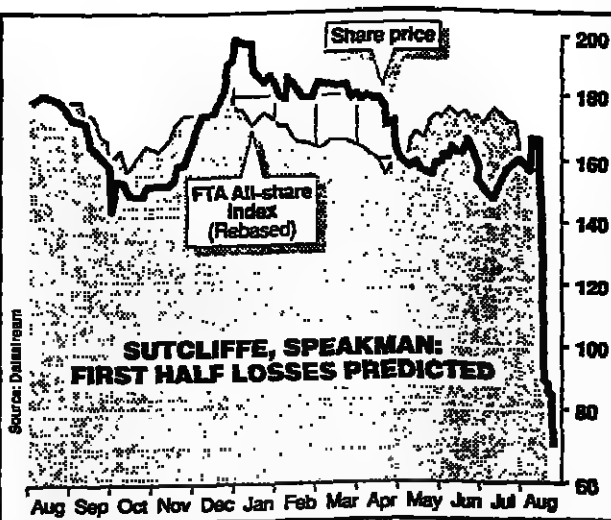
ANY dealer who saw Wall Street's close before retiring on Wednesday night would have known exactly where the London market was heading yesterday — down.

Wall Street's late fall left London, which for now is following its American counterpart, with a good 20-point deficit to make up. The City lost no time in catching up, with the FT-SE 100 index opening more than 27 points below Wednesday's close.

The fall widened to 45 points before bold buyers stemmed the morning's losses. But London's difficulties were far from over. With no sign of encouraging news from the Middle East, it was clear that Wall Street would once again be moving swiftly lower.

Isadore Kerman, the chairman of the BS Group, is likely to have a rough ride at today's annual meeting. Abington Management, a 5 per cent shareholder, believes it is far from alone in thinking that the BS price, at 290p, is spectacularly adrift of the net asset value. It plans to ask why.

When the Dow Jones industrial average plunged by almost 70 points in early trading, London followed and, by mid-afternoon, the FT-SE 100 was off by more than 50 points. However, a soaring continued to mean that London continued to enjoy its reputation as the world's leading equity market. As Wall Street edged higher again, brave buyers



were once again evident in London, boosting turnover to above 400 million shares.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 29.8 lower at 2,075.0, while the FT 30 index shed 18.3 to 1,604.2.

The strength of the pound should have prompted a rise in gilts. But it became clear that, while both international and domestic investors appreciate the security of sterling in these uncertain times, British interest rates make money market instruments preferable to even short-dated gilts.

Gilts were unchanged at the longer end, but there were gains of up to a quarter of a point among the shorter dated issues.

One of the most heavily traded stocks was British Telecom, where 17 million shares changed hands as the price slipped 7 1/2p to 279p. American press reports had drawn investors' attention to problems at McCaw Cellular

finished up down at 210p, after reaching 215p, while Shell Petroleum closed a similar sum down at 107p, after 110p. Shell and BP came in for similar treatment, finishing at 467p and 359p, after 485p and 371p respectively.

But Bursmah suffered heavy selling. As a downstream company, Bursmah has to buy raw materials for its oil-based products and will now be paying much more for these materials. The shares lost 32p to 540p.

There was no relief for shareholders in Sutcliffe. Speakman, the activated carbon and engineering group, which fell another 8p to 74p as it announced that the modernisation works at its Lancashire carbon plant would cause it to report a pre-tax loss

Communications, where BT has a 20 per cent stake. McCaw is the biggest cellular telephone group in the United States, but its expansion has left it with debts of more than \$4 billion. This is not an ideal position to be in as the American economy teeters towards recession.

Hanson, which announced that it would not be being bought by PowerGen, the smaller of the soon-to-be privatised electricity generators, was another heavily traded share. Some 13 million shares were traded as the price slipped 4 1/2p to 197p.

The quietly growing sense of panic in the oil markets saw the price of crude soar above \$30 a barrel, prompting selective buying among the oil stocks. The main beneficiary was Lasso, which continued its recent strong run by rising 10p to 495p.

Other shares had trouble holding on to gains. Hardy Oil

TOKYO

Nikkei plunges by 1,473 points to lowest this year

Tokyo. SHARES closed at their lowest so far this year with the Nikkei index suffering its fourth largest drop ever in terms of points.

Worries about the Middle East and rising interest rates pushed the Nikkei below 24,000 for the first time since February, 1988. The Nikkei plunged 1,473.28 points, or 5.84 per cent, to 23,737.63 after falling by 1,086.93 points on Wednesday.

Gregory Bandy, the head of equity trading at Merrill Lynch Japan Inc. said: "Technically, there should be a rebound, but we're beyond technical analysis now. We're looking at a new, completely different valuation of the Nikkei."

The Nikkei fell from the opening, dropping by more than 300 points below Wednesday's close in the first ten minutes. Arbitrage selling of cash stocks to buy cheap futures contracts and heavy stop-loss selling by a big trust drove the Nikkei down for most of the day until last-minute buying brought the

plunge to a halt. Since reaching a high of 38,915.87 on December 27, the Nikkei has lost 39 per cent of its value.

The decline has been amplified by the Middle East but many brokers said it would have happened anyway because of Japan's climbing interest rates.

Volume was at its highest level in a week, with 400 million shares changing hands against 360 million on Wednesday. Only 85 per cent of the first-session issues were traded because of a shortage of buyers. However, brokers said the market may rise at the opening today as arbitrageurs buy the cash indices, which are now at a discount compared with futures contracts.

Rumours of an outbreak of fighting in the Gulf were heard throughout the day, sending nervous ripples through the market. Losses were heavy and broad-based, with 472 issues reaching lows for the year. Among them was Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, which fell to an all-time low, losing ¥99,000 to ¥851,000. (Reuters)

FRANKFURT

Gulf worries take 3.5% off shares

Frankfurt. SHARES fell by 3.5 per cent in fairly quiet trading as nervousness about a further escalation in the Gulf kept most investors on the sidelines.

News that the East German parliament has finally set a date for German unification was roundly ignored by the market. Three weeks ago, a date for unity might have breathed life into the West German market.

But such issues have been completely overshadowed by the Gulf, dealers said. The DAX index fell 54.76 points to 1,520.34.

Shares on Wednesday had ended 1.6 per cent higher after a turbulent day, at the start of which the DAX had plunged to a low for this year of 1,517.39.

The DAX traded in a fairly tight, 15-point range yesterday, ending at the day's low. But most traders were relieved that the much sharper losses seen in the dealings before the official opening had not carried through into the official dealings.

● Hong Kong — Prices plummeted in thin trading, dragged down by Tokyo's steep declines. The Hang Seng index shed 83.52 points, or 2.8 per cent, to 2,871.41. The broad-based Hong Kong index fell 56.12 to 1,885.93. Turnover rose to HK\$1.34 billion (\$89 million) from HK\$1.07 billion on Wednesday.

● Sydney — The market finished sharply weaker in heavy volume as fears of a war in the Middle East grew. The All-Ordinaries index ended 36.9 weaker at 1,493.6, but off the low at 1,489.2. (Reuters)

Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 23	May 22	May 21	May 20	May 19	May 18	May 17	May 16	May 15	May 14	May 13	May 12	May 11	May 10	May 9	May 8	May 7	May 6	May 5	May 4	May 3	May 2	May 1	Apr 30	Apr 29	Apr 28	Apr 27	Apr 26	Apr 25	Apr 24	Apr 23	Apr 22	Apr 21	Apr 20	Apr 19	Apr 18	Apr 17	Apr 16	Apr 15	Apr 14	Apr 13	Apr 12	Apr 11	Apr 10	Apr 9	Apr 8	Apr 7	Apr 6	Apr 5	Apr 4	Apr 3	Apr 2	Apr 1	Mar 31	Mar 30	Mar 29	Mar 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19	Oct 18	Oct 17	Oct 16	Oct 15	Oct 14	Oct 13	Oct 12	Oct 11	Oct 10	Oct 9	Oct 8	Oct 7	Oct 6	Oct 5	Oct 4	Oct 3	Oct 2	Oct 1	Sep 30	Sep 29	Sep 28	Sep 27	Sep 26	Sep 25	Sep 24	Sep 23	Sep 22	Sep 21	Sep 20	Sep 19	Sep 18	Sep 17	Sep 16	Sep 15	Sep 14	Sep 13	Sep 12	Sep 11	Sep 10	Sep 9	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 6	Sep 5	Sep 4	Sep 3	Sep 2	Sep 1	Aug 31	Aug 30	Aug 29	Aug 28	Aug 27	Aug 26	Aug 25	Aug 24	Aug 23	Aug 22	Aug 21	Aug 20	Aug 19	Aug 18	Aug 17	Aug 16	Aug 15	Aug 14	Aug 13	Aug 12	Aug 11	Aug 10	Aug 9	Aug 8	Aug 7	Aug 6	Aug 5	Aug 4	Aug 3	Aug 2	Aug 1	Jul 31	Jul 30	Jul 29	Jul 28	Jul 27	Jul 26	Jul 25	Jul 24	Jul 23	Jul 22	Jul 21	Jul 20	Jul 19	Jul 18	Jul 17	Jul 16	Jul 15	Jul 14	Jul 13	Jul 12	Jul 11	Jul 10	Jul 9	Jul 8	Jul 7	Jul 6	Jul 5	Jul 4	Jul 3	Jul 2	Jul 1	Jun 30	Jun 29	Jun 28	Jun 27	Jun 26	Jun 25	Jun 24	Jun 23	Jun 22	Jun 21	Jun 20	Jun 19	Jun 18	Jun 17	Jun 16	Jun 15	Jun 14	Jun 13	Jun 12	Jun 11	Jun 10	Jun 9	Jun 8	Jun 7	Jun 6	Jun 5	Jun 4	Jun 3	Jun 2	Jun 1	May 31	May 30	May 29	May 28	May 27	May 26	May 25	May 24	May 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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES OTHER STERLING RATES

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

MONEY MARKETS

MONEY MARKETS

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

GOLD BULLION (Per ounce)

LONDON FINANCIAL FLETCHES

ANDON FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES

continued dead carcass weight

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

[illegible]

A state torn by years of unrest has become a place where former enemies are working together for a better and more secure life

On the path to a more stable future

There was a sense that it was touch and go when, on April 18, 1980, the Prince of Wales handed the instruments of power to the new government of Zimbabwe. The feeling was reinforced by the tearful welcome into the VIP stands as independence was formally inaugurated at Rufaro stadium in what was then Salisbury.

A wrong move by anyone, the late Lord Soames, the British governor, Robert Mugabe, then prime minister and now the president, and the guerrillas, or the Rhodesian army, could have overturned the whole exercise.

During the past ten years that promise of stability has been felt on and off, but with each crisis the likely outcome of any such upheaval alters. Zimbabwe has its troubles, particularly on the economic front, but it looks more stable now and not likely to plunge into the kind of mayhem often equated with African political instability.

A crucial ingredient in Zimbabwean stability has been the settlement of the politico-tribal enmity between Joshua Nkomo's Zapu and Mr Mugabe's Zanu-PF. This rift divided the Ndebele-speaking western third of the country from the predominantly Shona-speaking eastern two-thirds, and erupted into an insurgency that lasted almost five years. The settlement, which was achieved with a degree of dignity, has proved, after initial friction, to be acceptable to both sides.

Zapu seems certain to maintain its separate identity, in the knowledge that the unity agreement that ended the "disident" problems in Matabeleland has not swallowed

the party, but given it a substantial blocking vote in the party and government. Zapu's identity will remain undiluted, certainly as long as the burly figure of Mr Nkomo is around. Even if he is referred to in Bulawayo as *Umdala Utengese* (the old man who sold out), he symbolises the independent will of the Ndebeles.

Another vital reform, carried out before the process of political reparation was complete, was the retraining of the army to higher professional standards. This was to make sure that the atrocities in Matabeleland in the early Eighties by troops trained by North Koreans could not happen again.

South Africa was a great cause of instability. But under President F.W. de Klerk, the Republic has withdrawn its small army of spies, saboteurs and assassins from the

frontline states. When a parcel bomb killed an Anglican priest in Harare in May, the government pointedly blamed right-wing elements in South Africa, a gesture that signified the end of blaming the Pretoria government. The destabilisation campaign, however, run by Pretoria's band of mostly former Rhodesian security men, was marked by ineptitude and blunders. It is believed that the Zimbabwean government was more concerned about the possibility of South Africa closing the border — as Ian Smith, the former Rhodesian prime minister, had done with Zambia — to strangle the Zimbabwean economy.

Another recent source of insecurity, the civil war in Mozambique, has moved towards peace. The process will take the pressure



International links: Nelson Mandela, deputy president of the ANC, visited Robert Mugabe in Harare after his release earlier this year

off the Zimbabwean security forces, which have 10,000 troops deployed there for an increasingly unpopular operation.

Even without a ceasefire in Mozambique, the Zimbabwe railway authorities are hoping to reopen services to the port of Maputo, the second of the two shortest routes to the sea, by the end of the year. The rebuilding of the Maputo line, and of the shorter one through the Beira corridor, has been carried out by Zimbabwean rail technicians and protected by Zimbabwean soldiers.

Finally, the government last month ended the 25-year-old state of emergency.

For the majority of Zimbabweans the opening of the second decade of independence will mean the start of life under the rule of law. Although detention without trial was falling into disuse, it will be a relief to many to know that if they are arrested, they are bound to be brought before a magistrate within 48 hours.

This also appears to be the year in which the government has decided to abandon capital punishment. The last hangings were in 1988, but government ministers have confirmed that the



Open for business: Harare is ready for planned economic reforms

decision in principle was taken only this year.

On the economic front, the government appears to think that, with the easing of internal and regional political tensions, the climate is right to embark on an ambitious programme to breathe life into the stagnating economy.

Last month it delivered a series of policies aimed at untying the red tape introduced by Mr Mugabe's government, red tape that has done little more than

create shortages, erode the buying power of the worker's dollar, put people out of jobs and introduce a lifestyle of queuing for everything from death certificates to bread. The policy shift flies in the face of Zanu-PF's socialist aims, but Dr Bernard Chidzero, the senior minister of finance, explained that he had always regarded socialism as a process, "something we move towards, whether it takes us five, 10 or 100 years".

There is still a crucially im-

portant political issue that has come to a head in this watershed year. The entrenched clauses in the constitution that have protected the bill of rights, and most especially the clause guaranteeing freedom of political association, expired on April 18, the tenth anniversary of independence. Since then parliament has needed only a two-thirds majority, instead of the 100 per cent, to introduce a one-party state.

Mr Mugabe seemed last year to be in a hurry to sort the issue out. Constitutional amendments were passed in November that automatically changed the voting requirement on April 18 — a piece of legislation that in strict terms violated the constitution. So it may be considered strange that Edgar Tekere, the leader of the opposition Zimbabwe Unity Movement, with one seat out of 120 in parliament, is still there.

But there are divisions on the issue in the party's central committee, and Mr Mugabe admitted to them recently when he referred to his "sometimes solo attempts" to press on with the introduction of the one-party state. The former Zapu elements in the central committee are opposed to the concept,

and they have been joined by a number of junior Zanu-PF members who have lost their timidity. Members of the senior Zanu-PF hierarchy, several of whom have privately expressed their opposition, are silent for the time being.

It is the wind from eastern Europe that has brought the issue into the open. In the past few months, Zimbabweans have seen unrest in Kenya and watched the debate on the issue in Zambia, especially the weekend in June when Zambians went wild with joy when they were told, incorrectly, that the leader of their only party, President Kenneth Kaunda, had been overthrown.

In the past two months the frontline states' formerly most militant Marxist one-party states, Angola and Mozambique, have also turned against the idea. The decision of the Mozambicans, Zimbabwe's closest allies, was a telling one for Mr Mugabe.

Mr Mugabe has promised that the next central committee meeting will debate the issue fully, but party sources predict that he will have a long battle, and no certainty of victory. Even in 1981, when revolutionary fervour was hot, Ziana, the national news agency, conducted a street survey in which 90 per cent of respondents questioned in Harare opposed the one-party state.

Zimbabwe has other troubles. The main ones are high prices (that will worsen when the economic reform programme gets under way), a 15 per cent inflation rate, unemployment in excess of 30 per cent, a collapse in the urban transport system and deep suspicion of the party bosses after last year's car racketeering scandal involving the top rank of Zanu-PF.

Much depends on Mr Mugabe. He is a singular man, described by those who know him of old as warm, earnest and with a desperate interest in improving the lot of the poor, but trapped by the machinations and infighting of the central committee.

In his first decade (there is no clause in the constitution limiting his term of office) things have improved. Where the passage of time in some African countries has been accompanied by repression to ensure the leader continues to rule absolutely, Mr Mugabe has moved in the opposite direction.

Zimbabwe faces a host of problems, from industrial unrest to the fastest growth rate of Aids in Africa. There are many who believe Mr Mugabe — if not those around him — is the man to take it on.



Carved into our land

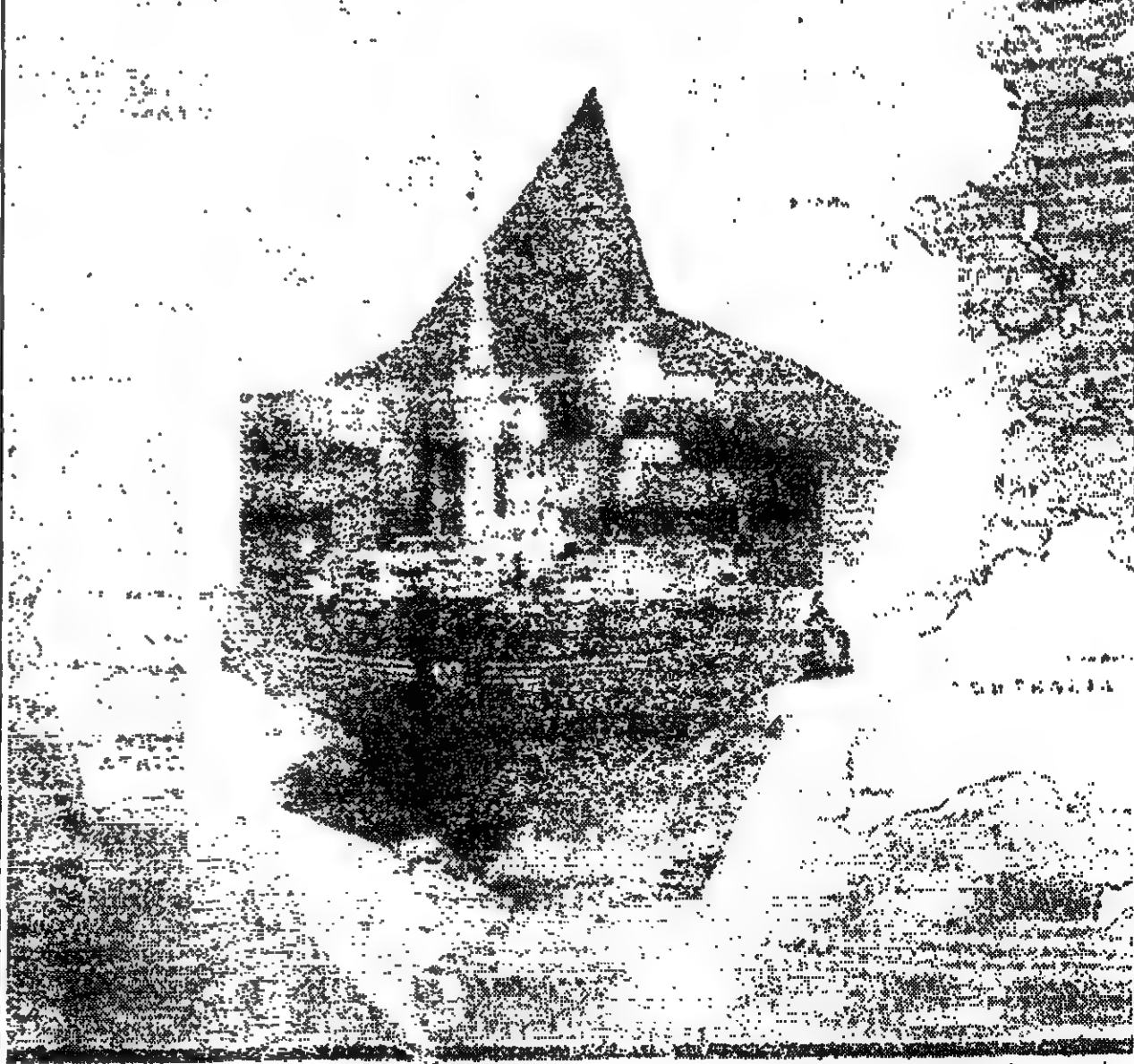
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The land of their fathers

After a century of change, many whites regard themselves as Africans

Things have not worked out quite the way Cecil Rhodes planned. But if the arch-empire builder were alive today, he would be surprised to find the descendants of his colonists far from swallowed up by the "heathen hordes".

Almost exactly 100 years ago, on Monday, August 20, 1890, the 750-strong column of white men had just breached the hills around what is now the town of Masvingo and was preparing the last swift trek to the north for the occupation of the pretty, well watered plains of Mashonaland.

There were English lords, American scientists and Afrikaner burghers. Artisans, professionals, administrators and soldiers had been selected by Rhodes's British South Africa Company to form the nucleus of an instant society. A century later, that society has survived more or less intact as the largest permanent white population in black Africa.

The wind of change blowing over the rest of colonised Africa tossed its white settlers back where they had come from, and the isolated pockets of a few hundred whites who remained are regarded as oddities in their now black-ruled home countries. But the whites of Zimbabwe have passed through 15 years of sanctions and the Smith government's unilaterally declared independence (UDI), a brutal seven-year guerrilla war when about 2,000 of them were killed, and a wholly unexpected assumption of power by what was then a black militant Marxist-Leninist movement.

For the white farmers of Matabeleland, independence meant merely the continuation of the war, because they were targeted as much for supporting President Robert Mugabe as they had been during the war for being supporters of Ian Smith.

"We don't qualify as settlers," said Alwyn Pichanick, a Harare lawyer and former MP in the Zimbabwe parliament, whose grandparents came here in 1897 and who now has fifth-generation Zimbabwean grandchildren. "We've been through all the changes, and nothing could induce me to leave now."



A soya farmer at work: "We don't qualify as settlers"

More than half the 250,000 whites who were here at the height of the UDI years have emigrated in a gradual exodus, but it is plain that the bulk of those who were relatively recent settlers. "As far as I can see, most of the whites left are those whose families came before the second world war," says Mrs Robin Heath, a geography lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, a third-generation Zimbabwean with grandchildren born here. "We really do have roots. The rest of the world is foreign to us."

Ten years after Mr Mugabe astonished the world by announcing, after winning the independence elections, that "now is the age of love", and established the government's policy of reconciliation between blacks and whites, the whites are thriving. The number of registered commercial farmers, nearly all whites, has increased since independence by 750 to 4,550, despite the fact that a quarter of their acreage has been used for resettlement.

The average age of the commercial farmer has fallen from 54 at independence to 38, a firm rebuttal of the argument that those who stayed are elderly people unable to leave because of the high cost of settling elsewhere.

The country's two main business organisations, the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries and the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, are still dominated by white faces at their gatherings. A recent CZI survey established that although there had been significant advancement of blacks into lower-to-middle private sector management, senior management is still firmly in white control.

In political circles, Mr Mugabe has always made a point of putting whites into important ministerial positions to achieve his stated aim of reflecting the make-up of the population and to make use of their skills as technocrats.

There are three white ministers in parliament, more than there have been since independence, and two have been set up as trouble-shooters in an attempt to restore order to the severely run-down ministries of health and transport.

Earlier this month Edward Gubbay, a British-born lawyer, was sworn in as chief justice — at 58, the country's youngest — after a long-running dispute between Mr Mugabe, who wanted a less experienced black judge, and the black-

dominated Supreme Court bench, which opted for the highly respected Mr Gubbay.

While the ending of entrenched white representation in parliament has removed a source of constant racial friction from the political scene, it has not ended white political involvement. Elections last March saw three whites elected in overwhelmingly black country constituencies, with massive support.

All three, Max Rosenfeld, a Matabeleland rancher, Peter Hewlett, a Midlands farmer, and Sean Hundermark, a former Rhodesian district commissioner, speak Shona or Ndebele fluently and are so comprehensively versed in traditional and contemporary culture that they were able to fight their way through the minefields of village politics to win their candidacies against black would-be candidates.

The years of independence have allowed most whites to prosper financially and to insulate themselves from having to work in the civil service, rely on government health services or send their children to state schools. Members of the community have tended to stick to themselves, behind the electrically operated gates of their expansive suburban homes, with amusement provided by enormous satellite dishes, barbecues and regular holidays in South Africa.

Stories of white racism, such as drunken "Rhodies" throwing punches at blacks in bars, continue to surface. But these are on a significantly reduced scale. The accusations of racism that accompanied nearly every conflict between people of different pigment after independence are now seldom heard, perhaps in the realisation that racism is not the monopoly of whites.

There has been a discernible drift of white children back to some government schools, while a series of maladministration scandals at private hospitals has proved them no better than the government institutions.

"A lot of it has to do with the fact that our kids had the advantage of being schooled together [with blacks]," said Tim Tanser, a lawyer whose settler origins go back to 1860, and who represented Mr Mugabe when he was in detention during UDI.

"They don't have a racial perspective. My eldest son is overseas now, but I pray that he will come back and live here. I will always try to persuade him."



Making sparks fly: Zimbabwe's economy is more diversified than any other in black Africa

Economic liberalisation has been a long time coming. Each announcement from the ministry of finance this year — on the easing of price controls, the introduction of collective bargaining, or the signing of membership of the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency — has had the overtones of a platoon storming one hard-fought trench after another.

Finally, on July 26 during the budget statement, Dr Bernard Chidzero, the senior finance minister, said: "[It is] time to do away with most of the economic regulations by allowing market forces to operate in directing the pace and course of economic activities in Zimbabwe." A few weeks earlier, the cabinet, after nearly four years of debate, had approved Zimbabwe's structural adjustment and programme of economic liberalisation.

Dr Chidzero was its champion and last December he was promoted to the politburo of the ruling Zanu-PF party, a rare example of a technocrat being elevated to a position of substantial political power.

Zimbabwe's economy has continued to be mixed since 1980 and it is more diversified and sophisticated than any other in black Africa. A pattern of government control was introduced during the UDI years and enhanced after independence in the name of socialism, but private ownership, capital and markets were never really threatened.

Most of the skirmishing between government economic policy makers and the private sector on the issue of Marxism versus market forces can be seen as shadow boxing, although the plethora of bureaucracy has been

Shackles come off

Zimbabwe gives the already mixed economy its head

substantial enough to drive down every economic indicator. Zimbabwe has a budget deficit of 9 per cent of gdp and a railway system incapable of moving exports.

Dr Chidzero envisages a five-year period in which gdp will grow by 5 per cent per annum. This will be based on an expansion in exports, which are to be fuelled by large inputs of hard currency to allow the often Heath Robinson technology of the manufacturing, mining and agricultural industries to re-equip, modernise and produce competitive goods for international markets.

Dr Chidzero has estimated the country would have to borrow up to \$4 billion to finance the projected growth, in addition to local and foreign private investment, while export earnings are expected to be ploughed back to provide further financing.

Zimbabwe is considerably underborrowed, according to economists, and it has an exemplary record of repayment. Earlier this year, President Robert Mugabe met Barber Conable, the president of the World Bank, and won support for the programme, even though he was unable to present comprehensive details.

Dr Chidzero intends to follow up a World Bank loan package

with a series of bilateral loans from western creditors and a meeting with a group of as yet unspecified international financiers, along the lines of the Paris and London Clubs. In his favour is the relative strength of the Zimbabwean economy and the fact that, as he said recently, the programme "is not a rescue operation" where lenders can set conditions that cast doubt on the sovereignty of the borrower.

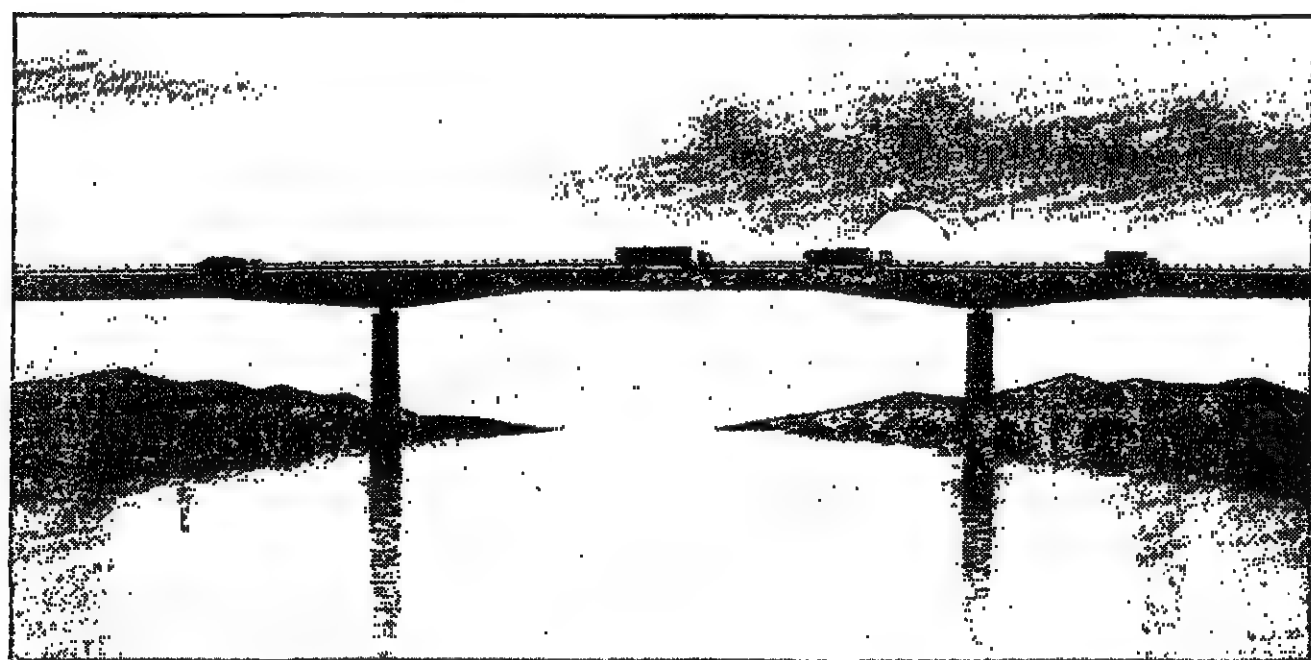
He will have to make significant adjustments, however, to the often inefficient structure of the Zimbabwean economy. The main target is the budget deficit, which he has predicted will drop to 5 per cent of gdp in four years, a target he plans to achieve by a radical reduction in subsidies.

Heavy government spending on education, defence and the civil service will also be cut, the latter by 25 per cent.

The programme also depends on investment, chiefly from abroad. In the past ten years the amount put up by companies willing to inject cash has been minimal, perhaps \$70 million. This reluctance has been linked to several factors — the limit of 25 per cent on the profits that can be repatriated which is imposed on most companies, the bureaucratic snails in trying to fire undisciplined workers and high taxation.

Against this, Dr Chidzero is speaking of export processing and free-trade zones, of ending the foreign currency allocation system in favour of enabling importers to bring in what they want, restricted only by the import duties on an open general import licence system, and a scheme where exporters can retain a significant proportion of the hard currency earned from their exports.

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FOCUS

ZIMBABWE/3

In its first decade Zimbabwe found its allies in Eastern Europe, but now the country is looking increasingly to the south

Offering the hand of friendship

Although a year has elapsed since Eastern Europe was stood on its head, most of Zimbabwe's press continues to prefix the names of Polish, East German or Czechoslovakian personalities with the title comrade.

After independence in 1980, every member of the Warsaw Pact established relations with the new "fraternal" African ally, opened an embassy in Harare, and peopled it with diplomats and an expensive collection of trade commissioners, cultural attachés and journalists.

Solidarity was marked by cultural tours by east European acrobats, pianists, artists and ballet troupes, while occasionally leaders would pay state visits, none more cynical than Nicolae Ceausescu, the former Romanian leader, who made it plain from the moment he arrived that he wanted no more than to shoot an elephant and head back home.

Dr Nathan Shamuyarira, the urbane minister of foreign affairs, has yet to comment on the thinning of the ranks of old "friends", but gradually the officials at the overstuffed embassies are being sent home.

They are unlikely to leave much of a vacuum. This year, Zimbabwe has put out feelers to Southeast Asia, particularly Malaysia; the two countries are linked by the English language and a similar level of development, and Harare wants to learn from Kuala Lumpur's dramatic economic strides.

However, attention is increasingly turning towards the south. Western diplomats pricked up their ears in late July when Mwenemurira, the minister of home affairs, announced that the state of emergency would not be renewed because the main reason for its recent existence, South Africa, was now "seriously extending the hand of friendship".

His remark signalled the beginning of the end of a cold war between Zimbabwe and its giant southern neighbour, leading towards the resumption of normal relations between two countries with strong historical and economic connections.

Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's president, has diminished his intransigence against the Pretoria government since the election of President F.W. de Klerk, who has reduced the scope for criticism and punitive measures against South Africa and halted the former's deliberate policy of destabilisation of its black-ruled neighbour.

"Mabuchi's statement has to be a watershed," a British diplomat here says. "When Zimbabwe, which until now has been apartheid's most vitriolic critic, speaks about friendship, it has set a lead and the pace towards normalisation with the rest of the continent can only speed up."

Clearly, South Africa will need counsel and support from trusted friends to stay on track toward the peaceful establishment of a stable, non-racial

state. Mr Mugabe has played an important role. It is not well known that the rapprochement between the African National Congress and its rival, the Pan-Africanist Congress, was started by Mr Mugabe.

In April, when Nelson Mandela, the deputy leader of the ANC, and Zephaniah Mofokeng, the PAC leader, were in Harare for Zimbabwe's tenth independence anniversary celebrations, Mr Mugabe brought them together for their first face-to-face meeting.

He will be poised for a similar role in October 1991 when he hosts the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Harare — one that looks as if it may bear surprising similarities to that of 1979, when the club met in the Zambian town of Livingstone, on the Rhodesian border, and set in motion the processes that led to Zimbabwe's independence.

During the years of former President P.W. Botha, South African undercover tactics against Zimbabwe were designed to deal with the political embarrassment of having a black-ruled neighbour with a large population of whites who continued to live in an economy that had not collapsed.

"It is something that all the groups in South Africa can look to for proof that a shift in power from white to black doesn't mean disaster," says a West African diplomat. "Reconciliation is what Mr Mugabe has been all about, and he's the logical man for them to come to."



Watchful women: members of a Zimbabwean army women's battalion

Underground interest

THERE is plenty of interest in what lies beneath the soil of Zimbabwe and Dr Bernard Chidzero, the senior minister of finance, is the centre of attention. Will he make digging it up worthwhile?

Zimbabwe is the world's second largest producer of ferrochrome, the fourth of asbestos, the tenth of gold, and it has hopes of being the second largest platinum producer. Its resources of nickel, copper, lithium, graphite, coal, tin, lead, silver, iron ore and a bevy of others are not world-beaters, but are enough to provide a lucrative income for the companies that exploit them.

A dramatic increase in exploration in the past four years peaked last year, when a record number of 57 exclusive prospecting orders was granted to mining companies. There is particular interest in platinum, virtually guaranteed to be in short supply because of the growth in demand from investors and its use as the catalyst in vehicle emission converters.

Delta Gold of Australia is planning a \$250,000 feasibility study which, it hopes, will lure finance to back a \$200 million extraction and refining plant.

Economists believe the mining sector is the one most likely to secure the foreign investment sought by the government. The country is well prospected and has a good infrastructure with a surprising range of smelting and refining capacity. Last year, black Africa's first gold refinery was established.

Kevin Peacock, a director of a mining consultant company in Harare, says: "The geology is right, with the future lying with the small to medium size mine, but the incentives have been wrong. We do not have the right investment climate." Until now expansion has been crippled by shortages of spare parts, vehicle replacements and the inability to import new plant and equipment, obstacles that may be removed with the government's economic programme.

Commercial farmers are uncertain about their future plans

THE Zimbabwean farmer's legendary capacity for survival will be tested in the coming year. On the one hand, he has been advised of a change in agricultural policy, with a freeing of the constraints that have made much farming uneconomic, and on the other he has been told that he stands a good chance of having his land expropriated to resettle peasant farmers.

The Zimbabwean commercial farmer is expected to produce 80 per cent of the marketed agricultural output of \$545 million and 95 per cent of \$375 million worth of agricultural exports. Agricultural production accounts for only 11 per cent of gross domestic product, but a large proportion of industry works with agricultural value-added, a fact demonstrated by the almost identical pattern followed by the plotted curves for gdp and agricultural output. The economy grows in a good rainfall year and slumps during a drought.

The past three years have seen a decline in commercial involvement in the traditional crops of maize and cotton and in beef ranching.

Tobacco production has gone from record to record,

A change of rules

with growers investing in improved curing facilities, greater storage capacity and, significantly, research, to the point, says Tom Dechassart, the chief executive of the tobacco trade association, where "drought will no longer be a majority problem" because of the development of hybrid strains.

The difference between the two forms of production is that traditional crops are subject to a maze of state controls, while tobacco follows the market. There has also been diversion from traditional crops into unregulated horticulture, chiefly sub-tropical fruits and, to a lesser extent, from cattle into game ranching.

The government is about to draft legislation that will alter the top-heavy government-controlled agricultural marketing systems. The legislation will also free the marketing boards from most of the ministerial control that has

been held responsible for providing price incentives that are too low and too late.

At the same time there is increasing concern about the productive capacity of the communal sector. Since 1980 there has been dramatic growth of peasant sector production, mostly in maize and cotton, but the Agricultural Finance Corporation has found its small-scale credit scheme unworkable. Only a small percentage of the loans have been repaid, with the rest having to be written off. The AFC announced in July that there would be no more credit for farmers in arrears.

Robert Mugabe, the president, who has hitherto shown a warm regard for the white farmers, has been one of the most outspoken in assuring them of their security. But against the economic common sense there is the political argument: the independence war was fought over the vast discrepancies in the area of land belonging to whites and blacks, and the situation for the average peasant farmer has probably worsened since independence. Mr Mugabe is caught between two conflicting pressures and a solution is desperately needed.

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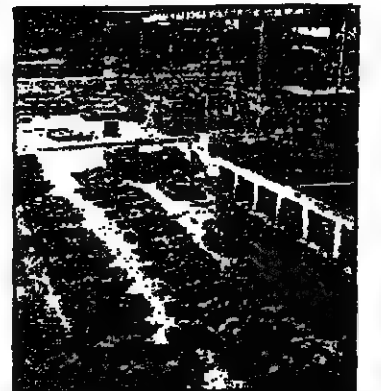
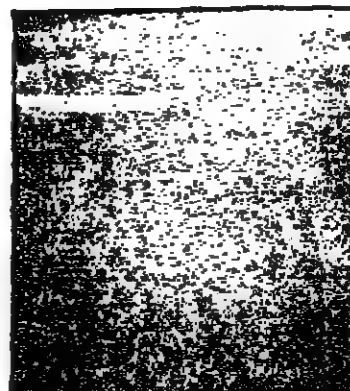
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Barefoot in the park: conservation of elephants is a crucial factor for Zimbabwe's growing tourist industry

Ecology helps tourism

Zimbabwe's natural attractions are its greatest advantage in the international competition for the tourist dollar

South Africa's biggest catering corporation, Fedics, has done the intelligent thing and taken itself off the circuit of hotels for booze, overfed annual general meetings. Instead, its executives will do this year as they did last and, dressed in T-shirts, shorts and trainers, paddle down the Zambezi river for three days in the company of crocodiles and hippos.

At mid-morning, their canoes will halt on the banks and the briefcases will be opened in the shade of a giant mahogany tree for a three-hour business session. They will get back into the canoes for a few more hours down the river, and another hour's business in the late afternoon. Then early bed under the stars straight after supper with nothing more serious to divert them than the cough of lion, cackle of hyena and occasionally drums on the other side of the broad river.

"They had only one or two drinks before bed because they were exhausted," says Garth Thompson, the safari operator who took the nine executives on their annual general meeting last year. "They woke up

early, without hangovers. They were rested, fresh and relaxed."

The Zambezi AGM is one of the cleverer lines offered by Zimbabwe's burgeoning tourist industry. Only very small parties of Zimbabwe are for the package-tour hordes or the backpackers. The country is for small groups of people to walk for hours through the bush where there are no roads, vehicles or other people, observing not only the grandeur of an elephant, but the industry of a dung beetle wrestling with a rhino dropping.

The immediate contrast is Kenya, which offers vast panoramas of savannah with antelope migrations preyed on by the big cats, in turn preyed on by hundreds of zebra-striped mini-buses tearing across the landscape in search of the stationary vehicle that means someone has found a kill.

But all is not well in the thin

strip of land on Zimbabwe's northern border where the Zambezi valley plays host to nearly all the country's tourism. Mr Thompson says: "We used to market Zimbabwe as Africa's best-kept secret. But now the secret is out."

The number of visitors rose after independence in 1980, when 264,000 tourists visited, but plummeted when hostilities broke out in western Matabeleland. Since 1987, when the violence subsided, growth has resumed, to reach 450,000 in 1988.

A clearer indication is given by the near-doubling of tour operators in the past year: plans for three hotels at Victoria Falls and an end to the sole landing rights of British Airways among air carriers from Europe. Lufthansa and TAP are using Harare airport and other airlines have expressed an interest.

Most tourist industry analysts regard official policy towards Victoria Falls, that it should not become another Niagara Falls, as a bit of a joke. Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, the country's largest mass-tourism

company, is rebuilding the 300-bed Elephant Hills Hotel which was gutted by a Zambian rocket in 1977, and another two smaller hotels are likely to be built, to add to the six there. It is much the same in the ten-mile radius of game-viewing area from the main camp at Hwange national park, which is crossed by 40 minibuses a day, as well as private holidaymakers' vehicles.

Not everyone is coping with the demand. Air Zimbabwe flights are sometimes delayed because of technical problems with old planes. Bed occupancy at hotels is increasing, but complaints abound over the standard of food and service, even if it is disarmingly friendly. "We are going to foul it up if we provide shoddy service and inadequate facilities," says Peter Frost, a biological sciences lecturer at Zimbabwe University who made a survey, published this year, on the Zambezi valley's tourist potential. He detects a resistance among visitors to the prices some hotels charge.

But there is also an increase in another type of accommodation: small permanent rest camps, with a maximum of 16 beds, erected just outside the perimeters of national parks. They match the eco-tourism concept and pose little threat to the wilderness.

Art from ancient dreams

Mythical themes inspire sculpture

THE indigenous stone sculpture of Zimbabwe is winning international acclaim. Since independence in 1980, the spontaneous and unexpected forms born of the dreams, religion and myths of mostly uneducated men and women have excited gallery viewers across the world.

The Yorkshire Sculpture Garden recently exhibited a significant collection of Zimbabwean sculpture and, for added value, three of the sculptors were there.

But, according to Paul Wade, the Liverpool-trained head of education at the National Gallery of Zimbabwe, there is a real danger of Zimbabwe stone sculpture "collapsing in on itself. It is a novelty overseas now and will probably go on for a couple of years, but the art world will get bored with it," he says.

There is no handed-down sculpture tradition among the people of Zimbabwe, whose cultural roots display little use of design. It was curiosity about this lack that gave birth to sculpture in the country about 35 years ago. While academics gave black Zimbabweans bits of wood or stone, carving tools and some advice on basic technique, and left them to it.

What emerged were the first visual portrayals of the region's spirituality. It revealed not the icons of a Christianity imposed by 60 years of colonial rule, but a religion of ancestral worship and animism, a world peopled by baboon-birds, tortoise-spirit mediums and hyena-women.

In the past few years, the focus has started shifting to the values of urban, literate and politically conscious township people. Soapstone has begun to give way to wood, metal and other materials.

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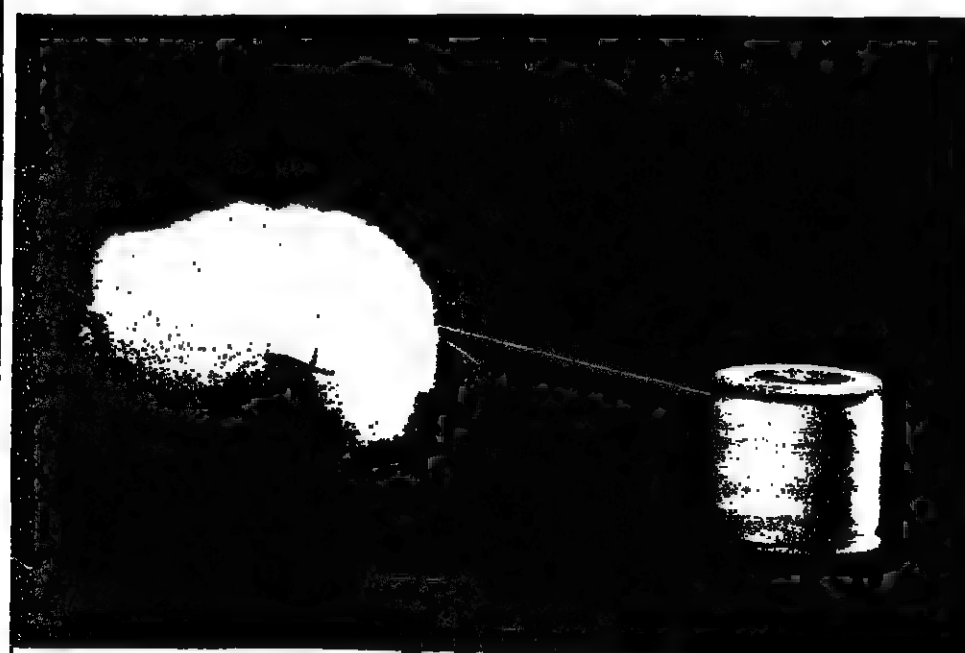
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Providing executives with the skills to set up as consultants

By BRIAN COLLETT

BRITAIN'S first formal training programme specifically for independent consultants will be held in October. The training is being pioneered by GMS Consultancy, which specialises in executive coaching, where executives are employed by companies for fixed terms.

GMS, based in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, held a conference in May to discuss the implications of going into business as an independent consultant. Afterwards GMS decided to draw up a training programme.

Charles Russam, the managing director, said: "We found by talking to some of the 2,500 senior executives operating as independent consultants registered with us, that there is nowhere to go to find out how to be an independent, and many people, who would otherwise be successful, have to give up."

The programme lasts five days and covers appearance, communication and presentation, computers, personal finance and sales and marketing.

Some executives, who have always given orders, are not used to selling themselves. The communication and presentation section is aimed at helping independent consultants to be persuasive.

The other parts of the programme will emphasise the value of computers in serving clients, the need to organise tax affairs and pensions, previously handled by the executive's employer, and the techniques of carrying out the job.

The initial three programmes will be pilot schemes. The first will be from October 8 to 12, followed by others in November and December. These will be sold to companies shedding executives and will be like outplacement services, which employers finance to help redundant employees.

Mr Russam said: "A company often wants to lose only half an executive, so it may buy back the skills of the person leaving. Thus, both employer and employee benefit."

A place on the programme costs £975. A company pays £8,250 if the programme is given in-house to a group of up to ten.

Further information: 0582 666970.

Remember the good old days when all we had to worry about was a muted Germany and interest rates?

MR FRIDAY

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Charting profits from the stars

By ROGER PEARSON

ALISON Harper, a former art teacher, has a flourishing business — as an astrologer.

Forget the traditional image of a fortune-teller hunched over a crystal ball in a sea-front kiosk. This highly efficient 45-year-old divorcee and mother of two is a world away from all that.

She uses a computer to assist in astrological predictions at the headquarters of Astroline, her company in Canterbury, Kent.

And when it comes to payment she does not expect her palm to be crossed with silver. Her highest single consultation fee so far is £1,200. The client was a businessman seeking guidance on the right time to make commercial moves.

The number of business clients on her books is increasing. She is on a £5,000-a-year retainer from a big office systems company, which takes her predictions seriously enough to be able to call her regularly for on-going guidance.

"Used correctly, it's an accurate science for predicting the right time in the future for people to make moves in their business and personal lives. Many people are now realising that it is not mumbo-jumbo and are taking it seriously... the fact they are prepared to pay my consultation fee shows how seriously."

She gave up her job in charge of the art department at a large Kent comprehensive school in 1983. She travelled abroad, became interested in astrology, taught herself as much as she could about the subject, and when she returned to England, took lessons from an expert. But it was not until 1986 that she branched out into business in her own right as an

astrologer. She did this with the backing of Strata Business Consultancy, in Canterbury.

They paid her £50 a week, funded the foundation of Astroline, and in return received all the consultation fees. Turnover topped £5,000 in the first year.

This system continued with her "wages" being increased until last



"People realise it is not mumbo-jumbo and are taking it seriously": Alison Harper prepares a chart

September. That was when she finally decided to branch out on her own.

She is on course for an annual turnover of more than £20,000 a year, with sufficient business to indicate that an increase in consultation rates must soon be due.

Apart from increasing her business clients, she also does a lot of

personal consultations with a price list ranging from £35 to £65.

As far as her own future is concerned, she has no worries. She foresees major expansion in 1993. She plans to open up transatlantic and other foreign markets when her predictions show the time is right. She also sees a steady build up in turnover in this country.

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- (5) 1988-1989 Austin "Montego" 1.6L Saloon Cars
- (6) 1988-1989 Austin "Montego" 1.6L Hatchbacks
- (7) 1988-1989 Austin "Montego" 1.6L Estate
- (8) 1987-1989 Ford "Sierra" 1.4, 1.6, 1.8L Estate & Hatchbacks
- (9) 1988-1989 Ford "Sierra" 1.6L Estate
- (10) 1988-1989 Ford "Sierra" 1.6L Hatchback
- (11) 1988-1989 Ford "Sierra" 1.6L Saloon Car
- (12) 1988-1989 Ford "Sierra" 1.6L Saloon Car

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A leading Briton heads for Luxembourg in a busy start to the Derby meeting at Hickstead

Whitaker displays his Derby form in a first-day victory

MICHAEL Whitaker and Henderson Tessa Hauener, the horse on which he hopes to achieve a second British Jumping Derby win on Sunday, made an auspicious start yesterday to the four-day Silk Cut Derby meeting at Hickstead, comfortably winning the Silk Cut Tankard, the main international class.

Clearly enjoying the perfect going on the All England course, the German-bred gelding finished more than two seconds ahead of the runner-up, Graham Fletcher and Wilkie, in the six-horse jump-off.

Herve Godignon, from France, who had missed the world championships in

Stockholm earlier this month after his top horse, La Belletrière, sustained an injury, finished third on Moët & Chandon Quidam with the only other clear round.

Whitaker, who is commencing to Luxembourg tonight to compete on his puma horse, Didi, at the Mondorifels-bains show, has now won more than £40,000 this season with Tessa Hauener, despite going eight weeks without a competition in May and June when the horse succumbed to a virus.

"He didn't eat for a week," Whitaker said yesterday, "and we couldn't discover what it was." His recovery was as dramatic as his illness. In July,

he finished second in the Dinard Grand Prix in France and last week was fifth in the Rotterdam Grand Prix.

Despite his successes, the horse still has to qualify in today's Silk Cut Derby trial for Sunday's £90,000 Derby.

Whitaker, who won the Derby in 1980 on Owen Gregory, is also riding Henderson's Mossanta on Sunday, the horse on which he won a team bronze medal in Stockholm earlier this month.

Although Mossanta, who is already qualified, is his leading horse, Whitaker has never ridden him in the Derby before and feels he has a better chance with Tessa Hauener, on which he finished fourth equal last year.

Fletcher, who said after competing yesterday that the going was "the best you could find anywhere" also hopes to qualify Wilkie today. The 12-year-old gelding produced his best Hickstead performance



High flyer: Gerry Mullins, of Ireland, riding Park Gate at Hickstead yesterday

Vale of White Horse's title after score errors

THIRTY-SIX teams, 48 juniors and 29 seniors, aged under-21 competed in the Pony Club Lawliffe Horse Trials championships at Weston Park, near Shifnal, yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

The Vale of White Horse were established as the winners after some mistaken mathematics had put Crawley and Horsham

at the top of the list. The Sussex-based Crawley and Horsham A took second by virtue of three clear cross-country rounds and good show-jumping over a course which

rode well, though an early tragedy necessitated the removal of the Coffin Fence for the rest of the day.

In a welcome change of format, the winners finished a happy third. They had made the 1,200-mile round trip for the third successive year after being eliminated for the last two years.

RESULTS: Team Championships 1. Vale of White Horse (47.55), 2. Crawley and Horsham A (48.00), 3. Crawley and Horsham B (48.10), 4. Crawley and Horsham C (48.20), 5. Crawley and Horsham D (48.30), 6. Crawley and Horsham E (48.40), 7. Crawley and Horsham F (48.50), 8. Crawley and Horsham G (49.00), 9. Crawley and Horsham H (49.10), 10. Crawley and Horsham I (49.20), 11. Crawley and Horsham J (49.30), 12. Crawley and Horsham K (49.40), 13. Crawley and Horsham L (49.50), 14. Crawley and Horsham M (50.00), 15. Crawley and Horsham N (50.10), 16. Crawley and Horsham O (50.20), 17. Crawley and Horsham P (50.30), 18. Crawley and Horsham Q (50.40), 19. Crawley and Horsham R (50.50), 20. Crawley and Horsham S (51.00), 21. Crawley and Horsham T (51.10), 22. Crawley and Horsham U (51.20), 23. Crawley and Horsham V (51.30), 24. Crawley and Horsham W (51.40), 25. Crawley and Horsham X (51.50), 26. Crawley and Horsham Y (52.00), 27. Crawley and Horsham Z (52.10), 28. 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SPORT

Indian batsmen go to the ball

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE OVAL (first day of five):
India have scored 324 for four against England

IF ENGLAND proved anything, on an airless and curiously featureless day in south London, it was that they still have plenty to prove. They bowled and fielded as modestly as they have done all year and India's batsmen gorged themselves accordingly.

There was something acutely disappointing about this England display. Early on, in conditions which might have been made to order for the seam bowlers, basic disciplines of accuracy deserted them. India, coping more calmly than is their habit with the loss of two wickets, rallied to reach their most promising position of the series.

We already knew they could bat. Despite being beaten at Lord's and outplayed at Old Trafford, they still totalled 459 and 432 in the respective first innings. Winning the toss and batting for the first time gave them a final chance to dictate a match and, directed by Ravi Shastri's second century of the series, they are doing so.

Any possible doubt that England's bowling was short on numbers surely vanished when Graham Gooch had to add nine overs to his season's aggregate of 30. As to the quality, one hesitated to imagine how this attack might suffer in Australia this winter.

Devon Malcolm was a shadow of the threat England had hoped he might be. True, the pitch did not have the pace and bounce seen here earlier in the summer, but it was still the quickest Malcolm has bowled on in any Test this year, and he failed to make use of it.

Angus Fraser compromised his virtue of general steadiness

Solid performers feel unrewarded

IT SEEMS to me that the England selectors are mistaking cricketers with a certain flair for bowlers who deliver the goods. Just because Neil Williams, from St Vincent in the Caribbean, Phillip DeFreitas, from Dominica, and Chris Lewis, from Guyana, are natural athletes who can field like hawks, it does not mean they have more to offer England than others who may seem to lumber around but know what they are doing.

Those who perform solidly, day in and day out, are feeling unrewarded. A couple of years ago it was being said of Angus Fraser that he was not sufficiently mobile to make a modern Test cricketer. His PT report was poor, though what mattered was not whether he could run the 100 metres in 11 seconds but how good a bowler he was. If Alec Bedser, Maurice Tate and S. F. Barnes had been required to display their mobility, we would never have heard of them.

Yet Fraser is now the best bowler in the England side. In 17 Test matches, DeFreitas has taken 38 wickets at a cost of 45 and averages 12 with the bat at Old Trafford, in the last Test match, Lewis's first three overs cost 27 runs. Before lunch yesterday, Williams had trouble locating the stumps. Devon Malcolm, of Jamaica, is different because he takes wickets and can be genuinely fast, albeit only occasionally.

England's need yesterday was for another bowler to pitch the ball up, do something with it and make the batsmen play. Martin Bicknell, perhaps — except that he is not from the West Indies or a potential winner of the decaathlon.

Seen from the Vauxhall end, the new Oval stand, in use yesterday for the first time, is a credit to the Surrey club.

THE OVAL SCOREBOARD

India won toss

INDIA				
First Innings				
	Runs	Wickets	Extras	Over
R J Shastri not out	135	18	354	291
N S Sedhu c Russell b Fraser	12	2	15	12
S V Manjrekar c Russell b Malcolm	22	3	51	29
DB Vengsarkar c and b Atherton	33	5	122	113
*M Azharuddin c Russell b Williams	78			
M Prabhakar not out	20	2	49	42
Extras (b 4, lb 5, w 5, nb 10)	24			
Total (4 wickets, 97 overs)	324			

S R Tendulkar, Kapil Dev, TK S More, A Wasson and N Hirwani to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15 (Shastri 4 not out), 2-61 (Shastri 26 n o), 3-150 (Shastri 88 n o), 4-259 (Shastri 123 n o).
BOWLING: Malcolm 19-4-54-1 (nb 2) (5-1-13-0, 5-2-15-1, 5-1-15-0, 4-0-11-0); Fraser 23-11-58-1 (nb 1) (7-3-27-1, 7-5-9-0, 4-2-11-0, 5-1-12-0); Williams 21-3-53-1 (nb 8) (5-1-19-0, 7-4-25-0, 5-5-9-1); Gooch 9-1-32-0 (2-0-4-0, 7-1-28-0); Hemmings 13-5-35-0 (1-1-25-0, 5-1-28-0, 1-0-1-0); Atherton 7-0-60-1 (w 2) (4-0-28-1, 3-0-32-0).

ENGLAND
G A Gooch, M A Atherton, D J Gower, A J Lamb, R A Smith, J E Morris, TR C Russell, N F Williams, E E Hemmings, A R C Fraser, D E Malcolm.
Umpires: N T Plews and D R Shepherd.

WEATHER: Hot and humid with a great deal of sunshine.
TV TIMES: BBC 2: 09.30-10.00, 10.50-11.05, 11.35-12.30, 00.10-00.45, BBC: 20.00-22.00.
PREVIOUS MATCHES: First Test: Headingley, July 26-31; England beat India by 247 runs. Second Test: Old Trafford, August 6-14; Match drawn.

with short balls which had him kicking the ground in self-disgust. Eddie Hemmings was no threat at all and Neil Williams, on his debut, probably did more to eliminate himself from Ashes selection than ever he could have achieved by carrying the drinks as twelfth man.

It added up to the sort of invitation India could not refuse, and although, when Sidhu and Manjrekar were out inside an hour, they looked like missing the party, Shastri delivered an elegant acceptance.

The day began badly for England, when they were unable to field their preferred side. Chris Lewis, who seldom seems free of ailments, felt obliged to withdraw with a

migraine attack, shortly before the toss, and Williams, aged 28, found himself playing at a level he must have thought had passed him by.

The process by which Williams found his way into this party ahead of Martin Bicknell, to name but one, continues to escape me, but he did nothing here to suggest that he will extend his Test career. In his first two spells there were an average of three balls an over which the batsmen were not required to play. He took his one wicket by courtesy of a quite brilliant one-handed catch by Russell and, before the end, had limped off.

Sidhu had fallen in the game's fourth over, pushing at one he might have left alone and nicking it towards first slip. Whether or not Lamb would have caught it we shall never know, for Russell launched himself horizontally to save him the trouble.

The shot which dismissed Manjrekar will haunt him for days: it was pretty nearly a wide from Malcolm but Manjrekar, crouching, stretching and lunging, connected with the edge.

It was now that England needed to turn the screw and now that their radar malfunctioned. Shastri and Vengsarkar played through to lunch and in the next session the Indians added 111 for the loss of Vengsarkar.

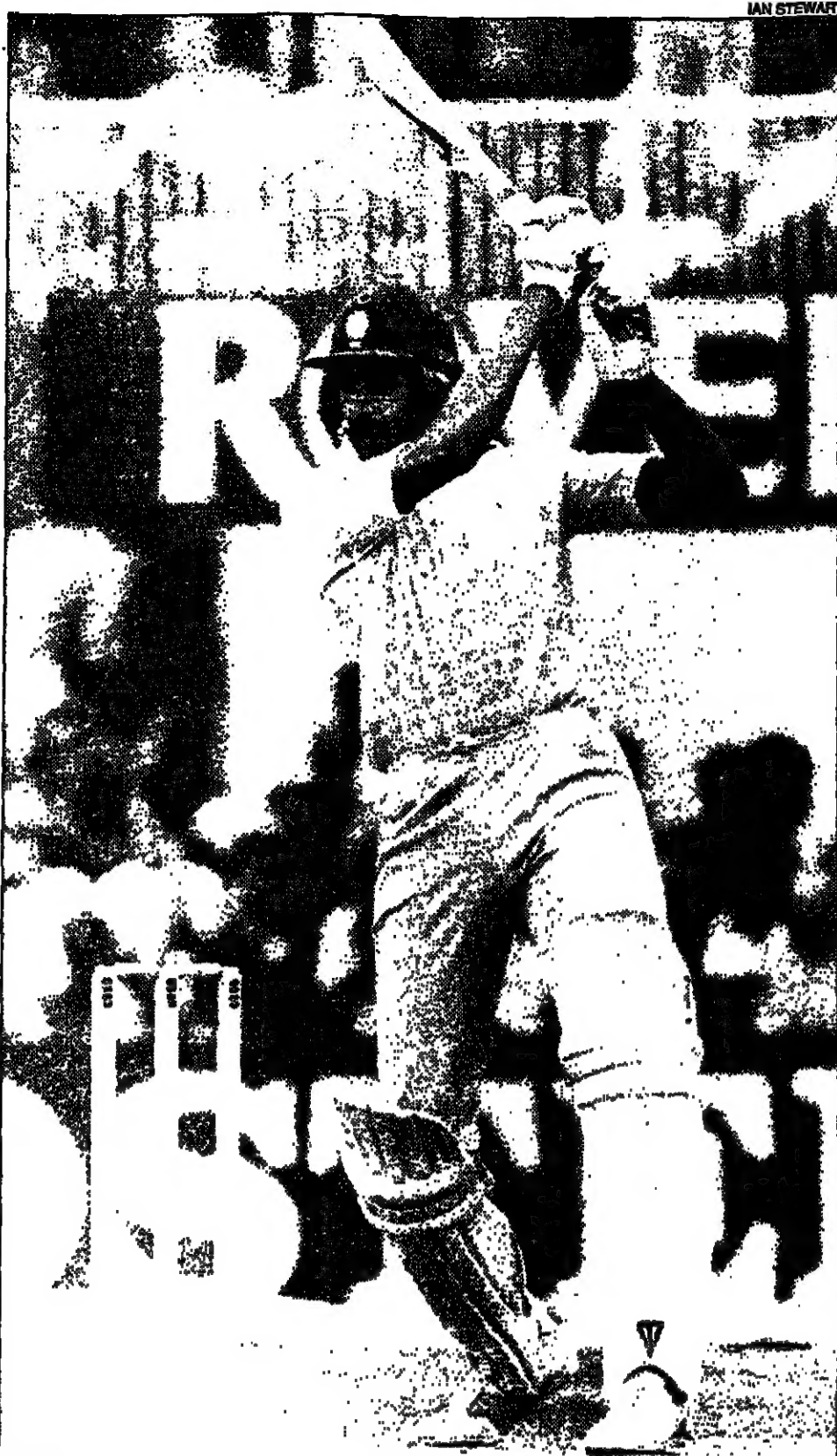
It happened within a bizarre over from Atherton, who seems unable to translate his effective county leg-spinning to a Test environment. He began with a high full pitch which was pulled for four, followed with a double bouncing leg-side wide which eluded Russell and then offered another friendly full toss which Vengsarkar obligingly drove straight back at him.

Atherton bowled an equally eccentric spell later on, adding weight to the theory that a second specialist spin bowler would have made more sense than a sixth batsman.

Shastri reached his century shortly after tea and was still playing correctly and attractively at the close, his innings punctuated by cover drives to swoon over, albeit from deliveries to seeth over.

Azharuddin made 78 in two hours, a relative failure next to his 121 and 179 in the previous Tests, but further evidence of one of the world's most watchable batsmen, and in the evening humidity, Prabhakar was sent in ahead of Tendulkar with the express purpose of blunting the new ball. He did it well, on a day when India did most things better than England.

Leading article, page 11



Indian hero: Shastri on his way to his second century of the series yesterday

Derbyshire shown how to achieve perspective

By STEPHEN THORPE

DERBY (first day of four): Derbyshire won toss; Essex, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, lead Derbyshire by 97 runs

ESSEX are in pole position for a fifth championship in 11 years but are fortunate indeed in encountering a Derbyshire side who were in contention themselves only a few days ago. Derbyshire, having seen their own ambitions scuppered, are suffering a severe bout of pitch appraisal depression, and simply played loosely in conditions ripe for swing and seam.

There could be no real recriminations with the pitch yesterday, apart from occasional extra bounce. Beforehand, the umpires considered it a good, well-prepared wicket, albeit necessarily a might grassy, but within an hour Derbyshire were 41 for six and later 91 for seven at lunch, with Ian Bishop leading a rearguard action.

Barnett won the toss but, no doubt, wished otherwise when Mark Ilett removed him lbw in his first over. Pringle, the Essex captain, would also have batted, in the hope that first strike offered the best chance of a substantial total.

Significantly, however, a high-class seam merchant is in operation and another may be

in the making. Had Bishop sampled the early juice an equally interesting passage may have ensued. As it was, Derbyshire were swept aside for 110 by Foster and Ilett, who took five cheap wickets apiece, with the help of four standard catches by the wicket-keeper, Garnham.

Foster's recent surge of form has propelled him to leading wicket-taker in the county, but he was soon at odds with Pringle over a field change when Bowler twice guided him through a vacant third man.

Thankfully seeing sense, third slip was reinstated as O'Gorman and Adams both contrived edges off Foster. Ilett's angle of delivery, nippy left arm over, but not yet quite in the thrustful vein of J K Lever, disconcerted all the batsmen and Roberts lost his middle stump, stretching too far across.

Foster, from a more economical approach than was once the norm, also enjoyed movement late in the air and off the seam during a muggy morning session. Ilett spreadeagled Krikken's stumps and can celebrate his 20th birthday on Monday and a career-best return without the distraction of a fourth day's cricket here.

Bishop has the ability to become an accomplished batsman and was undefeated on 39, while Foster cleaned up after lunch.

Concentric rings — moss marks — are visible at close quarters on the square, but any Derbyshire preconceptions about outside influences are in the mind. Essex endured a similar reaction after the Southend fiasco last year and there is little irony now.

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings
K J Barnett lbw b Ilett 4
P D Bowler c Wagh b Ilett 11
I J O'Gorman c Garnham b Foster 19
G J Adams c Garnham b Foster 19
S C Goldsmith c Ilett b Foster 19
S C Goldsmith c Ilett b Foster 19
M C Ilett not out 28
G Miller c Garnham b Foster 28
I R Bishop not out 39
Extras (b 6) 4
Total (43.4 overs) 110
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-16, 3-16, 4-17, 5-41, 6-41, 7-47, 8-51, 9-101.
BOWLING: Foster 16-6-29-5; Ilett 18-4-34-5; Andrew 8-2-18-0; Pringle 3-0-13-0.

ESSEX: First Innings
J P Stephenson c Adams b Warner 11
N Shahid c Roberts b Warner 59
P J Pringle not out 59
M E Waugh c Barnett b Jean-Jacques 61
M C Ilett not out 61
Extras (b 5, w 1, nb 7) 13
Total (30.4 overs) 207
N Hassan, S J W Anderson, D R Pringle, M A Garmham, A Foster and J H Childs to bat.
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-59, 2-79, 3-205.
Barnett captain Derbyshire 1, Essex 5.
Umpires: D J Constant and R Jullen

First hurdle at US Open is a test for Becker

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

BORIS Becker will start the defence of his title against a familiar and dreaded foe when the US Open begins at Flushing Meadows in New York next Monday. Becker will play Juan Aguilera, the gentle and talented Spaniard who gave the West German world champion a lesson in the art of clay-court play in the final of the German Open in Hamburg early in May.

As he plots his revenge, Becker, the No. 2 seed, will take comfort from two things: first, that power should be more of a factor on the hard courts of Flushing than it was in Hamburg and second that he showed his wellbeing by winning recently in Indianapolis, a welcome fillip to his morale after losing his first Wimbledon title.

The West German claims that he rarely looks ahead to see potential opponents and that philosophy may prove useful over the next fortnight.

Should he survive the wiles of Aguilera, ranked 18, there are equally dangerous customers such as Paul Haarhuis, the Dutchman who beat John McEnroe in the second round last year, Yannick Noah, countryman Carl-Uwe Steeb and the spindly figure of Goran Ivanisevic. If the seedings work to form — and the computer has not been the most reliable guide this year — Becker will play Andre Agassi in the semi-finals.

In the top half of the draw, Stefan Edberg has almost as difficult first round match against the enigmatic left-hander Alex Volkov. The Russian has only played the US Open twice and has not progressed beyond the third round. But as he showed at Wimbledon, he's learning fast and he will not be overawed by meeting the new world No. 1, particularly as this has not been the Swede's happiest hunting ground. The semi-finals promise a return meeting with Ivan Lendl, the

Seeds

MEN'S SINGLES: 1, S Edberg (Swe); 2, B Becker (Ger); 3, I Lendl (Cze); 4, A Agassi (US); 5, A Gomez (Ecu); 6, J McEnroe (Aus); 7, E Sanchez (Esp); 8, B Gilbert (US); 9, A Krickorian (US); 10, A Chesnokov (USSR); 11, M Chang (US); 12, P Sampras (US); 13, J Borge (US); 14, J Krieger (Aust); 15, L J Novotny (Cze); 16, M Jelen (Cze); 17, K Matsuda (Jpn); 18, M Jelen (Cze); 19, M Matsuda (Jpn); 20, C Hennrich (Ger); 21, S Sabatini (Arg); 22, J Novotny (Cze); 23, J Capriati (USA); 24, N Zvereva (USSR); 25, J Wastene (Aust); 26, B Pankratz (Aust).

recently deposed No. 1.

Jeremy Bates, the only British player in the men's singles — all other representatives were knocked out in qualifying — has a tough first round match against Veli Halonen of Finland. John McEnroe, playing his first match since the US Open for 12 years, will not relish his opening match against Javier Sanchez, while another former champion and world No. 1, Mats Wilander, looking for some gentle practice after a long lay-off, has to face the eighth seed, Brad Gilbert.

Other matches to note are Jimmy Connors, playing his first grand slam tournament of the season and his 21st consecutive US Open at the age of nearly 38, against Kevin Curren, a mere 32, and Michael Chang against Mihail Pervushov.

In the women's singles, Steffi Graf, the No. 1 seed, could face a repeat of her fourth round at Wimbledon against Jennifer Capriati and has an early chance for revenge against Zina Garrison in the semi-final. In her quest for her fifth US title, Martina Navratilova will have to overcome Monica Seles, the French champion and third seed, in the semi-final.

Jo Durie plays Helena Sukova, the No. 11 seed and the British No. 1, Monica Seles, meets the young American Jennifer Santrock.

Forsbrand's luck on upward swing

From PATRICIA DAVIES IN HUBBELRATH

THE two letters that have characterised Anders Forsbrand's season are the chilling, no money winning ones of MC missed cut. The Swede, playing in the Volvo German open golf championship at Hubbelrath yesterday, has had 15 of those on the European Tour this year and he has played in only 23 tournaments, including the Open Championship, in which he changed the initials to FQ: failed to qualify.

Forsbrand, who this season has been placed in only seven events after an appalling season last year, returned a 64, eight under par, in the first round, of the event, whose billing of being worth \$500,000 seemed to owe more to creative accounting than fact. It is now, apparently, worth \$465,000.

Forsbrand had eight birdies to equal the course record and open up a two-stroke lead over the multi-national quartet of Eamonn Darcy, Rick Hartmann, Joakim Nystrom and Craig Parry, the defending champion.

Forsbrand, who won the Ebel European Masters in 1987, traced his decline to the death of Hans Eriksson, his coach and good friend, in March 1988.

He started seeing David Leadbetter, a coach with a reputation for restructuring golf swings, and has been

persevering with the changes since December.

Parry, who may be fined for playing in The International in Colorado last week without an official release, showed no signs of lag of any sort as he began the defence of his title. He had eight birdies, and two wasps and a fly enlivening his round.

The first wasp appeared at the 15th, his sixth hole, and sung him on the shoulder. He ripped off his shirt, checked the wasp had gone, then holed a 15-foot putt for a birdie stroke. At the 4th, his 13th, another wasp rested on Parry's ball, making the Australian understandably jumpy, and he took three putts for his second successive bogey.

Parry had a birdie at the next, however, and also finished with two birdies, despite swallowing a fly as he walked up the 8th, his 17th.

LEADING SCORES (36 and 18 holes): 64: A Forsbrand (Swe), 65: P Hartmann (Ger), 66: J Nystrom (Swe), 67: R Hartmann (Ger), 68: C Parry (Aus), 69: M Darcy (Ger), 70: J Capriati (USA), 71: M Seles (Ger), 72: J Santrock (USA), 73: H Sukova (Cze), 74: Z Garrison (USA), 75: S Sabatini (Arg), 76: J Connors (USA), 77: K Matsuda (Jpn), 78: B Pankratz (Aust), 79: D Wilander (Swe), 80: J Wilander (Swe), 81: J Wilander (Swe), 82: J Wilander (Swe), 83: J Wilander (Swe), 84: J Wilander (Swe), 85: J Wilander (Swe), 86: J Wilander (Swe), 87: J Wilander (Swe), 88: J Wilander (Swe), 89: J Wilander (Swe), 90: J Wilander (Swe), 91: J Wilander (Swe), 92: J Wilander (Swe), 93: J Wilander (Swe), 94: J Wilander (Swe), 95: J Wilander (Swe), 96: J Wilander (Swe), 97: J Wilander (Swe), 98: J Wilander (Swe), 99: J Wilander (Swe), 100: J Wilander (Swe).

Prost signs for another season with Ferrari

By JOHN BLUNDSDEN

ALAIN Prost has signed a contract with the Ferrari Formula One motor racing team for the 1991 season. His decision to remain with the team, which was announced yesterday, effectively removes any possibility Ferrari might have had of persuading Nigel Mansell to reconsider his decision to retire and continue to drive for them for a third season.

When Mansell sacrificed his No. 1 status with Ferrari at the end of last year to enable Prost, a long-time friend, to join him at Maranello, he did so on the strict understanding that the concession would apply for the 1990 season only.

He has since had cause to regret his suggestion, and long before he announced his retirement at Silverstone he had made it clear that never

again would he sign a contract which did not give him undisputed No. 1 status and the permanent use of a spare car. If Mansell does, after all, reverse his retirement decision — and he insists that nothing has changed since July — Williams and McLaren are the only two teams who could give him all he requires.

Williams would welcome him back, but Ayrton Senna, who is still at loggerheads with McLaren over the terms of his contract, remains top of their shopping list. If Senna does switch teams, the vacancy he would create at McLaren could possibly prove a sufficiently large carrot to induce Mansell to defer his retirement for one, or possibly two, years in the hope that they could give him the world championship he so desperately desires.

A trusty torch lights up the dark of the channel

TOMORROW marks the end of an era in sports broadcasting — the last Sport on Two, the BBC's Saturday afternoon radio sports magazine which, over 20 years, has been the outstanding sports programme on either radio or television.

Fortunately, the ending is not as dramatic as that sounds. You will not even have to change wave-lengths next week when the same programme, under a new and safely unoriginal title of Sport on Five, reappears untouched on Radio Five, the sport, education and young people's channel which will occupy Radio Two's medium-wave frequencies.

The implications are unpredictable in advance but the step into the dark of a new channel, with slightly strange bedfellows and an unknown but possibly much younger audience than Radio Two enjoyed, does mean that there are undoubtedly some misgivings behind the inevitable official statements welcoming a new challenge.

PETER BALL on the new home for an old friend of the airwaves

It would be almost unforgivable if it was harmed by its change of guise, because in its 20 years Sport on Two has woven itself into the fabric of the nation while setting standards unmatched elsewhere with the speed, breadth and authority of its coverage. To say that a sports event did not happen if you did not hear it on Sport on Two might be a slight exaggeration, but only a slight one. It was, possibly uniquely, a programme which appealed equally to media professionals, the dedicated sports follower and to the casual listener.

As a training ground for television sport, it also has made a significant contribution, with Desmond Lynam, Alan Parry, Gerald Williams, Jim Rosenthal and John Motson all benefiting from working in what Bryon Butler, the BBC's

distinguished football correspondent, described as "something of a boohouse, giving intermediate and higher education for TV. Radio set the standards in the first place and it has never compromised on those standards."

Above all, those standards required an ease with words and an ability to paint a picture for the listener and to capture a moment with an evocative or dramatic phrase. People like the late, lamented football specialists, Peter Jones and Maurice Edleston, Geoffrey Green, the former football correspondent of The Times, who brought his own passion and romantic elegance to the subject, and the sharper Jim Manning gave the programme a style which shone through the occasional breathlessness.

As did, and do, Butler and Peter Bromley, the only survivors from the first programme in the spring of 1970 who are still working on Sport

on Two. Both will be in the studio tomorrow to do nostalgic pieces. They will have a mass of memories of great events and minor catastrophes to choose from.

The first programme, presented by Peter Jones, revealed something of the catholicity of the approach. Peter Bromley and Michael O'Hehir reported on the Grand National, won by Gay Trip; Alan Gibson, another familiar name to older readers of The Times, reported on the Wales-France rugby international; Butler and Edleston covered Sheffield Wednesday-Everton while Emrys Walters reported on the Amateur Cup Final between Dagenham and Enfield.

If that last football match reveals the changing eras, so does the other item, a Sports Forum at Wombwell Cricket Lovers' Society, unimaginable in these days when the first 24

hours jumps from one live event to another, every first division match is covered and the programme is divided into segments lasting 60 seconds rather than ten minutes.

Almost unimaginable, but not quite. Because starting next week, along with sports news on the hour, every hour, from 2pm, with longer slots at 6pm and 7pm and late-night sports news slots at 11pm and midnight and a midweek sports programme every Wednesday from 8-9.30pm, there will also be a change on Saturdays.

Tony Lewis's early morning programme, Sport on Four, will be updated and repeated at midday on Radio Five and that will be followed by a one-hour The Sports Quiz before Sport on Five begins. Plus a change...

Gray, Collins